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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 114
Human rights questions

Letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued at Addis Ababa on 29 December 2000 by the Observer Team dispatched by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to observe the presidential elections held this month in the Sudan.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly of the United Nations under agenda item 114, entitled "Human rights questions".

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

01-20084 (E) 050101 080101

Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Statement by the OAU Observer Team on the 2000 general elections in the Republic of Sudan

At the invitation of the General Elections Authority of the Republic of the Sudan and as part of the efforts of the Organization of African Unity to support the democratization process in Africa, the OAU Secretary General dispatched a Nine-member Team to observe the elections from 5th to 23rd December 2000 in the Sudan. The OAU Team, led by H.E Ambassador Pascal Gayama, observed the elections in various parts of the country.

Having witnessed various aspects of the electoral process, including administrative arrangements, campaigns and polling activities, and having held discussions with all five Presidential candidates as well as other parties, including those which boycotted the elections, the Team wishes to commend the General Elections Authority for the arrangements that allowed the Sudanese people, including those outside the country to freely exercise their democratic rights. The Team took note of the mechanism put in place to deal with the complaints on voting irregularities. Equally, the OAU Team wishes to congratulate the Sudanese people in general for their maturity, patience and the disciplined manner, which they manifested throughout the process.

The OAU Team, during its meetings with the candidates and political parties, took note of their concerns, such as the handling of the voters' rolls, the airtime accorded by the government television and radio stations, the high proposing and insurance fees charged to the sponsors and their candidates, inadequate time to prepare for the elections, lack of sufficient resources for the parties to participate effectively etc... The Team will transmit all the reported and observed problems together with some suggestions on how best to go about them, to the General Elections Authority in a more detailed report of the Team.

It is acknowledged that in a country of about 30 million people of the size of the Sudan, it was inevitable that there would be some logistical challenges. It is the Team's hope that many of these challenges will be overcome in future elections.

While noting that some major political parties boycotted the elections, it was encouraging however, that the leaders from all sides expressed their readiness and commitment to embark, after the elections, on a dialogue. This will hopefully bring about national reconciliation.

Given the above-mentioned observations and other prevailing circumstances, it is the view of the OAU Observer Team that the overall exercise was an important step towards democratization and that it was conducted in a conducive atmosphere and in a satisfactory manner.

The OAU Team takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to some African Diplomatic Missions, the Arab League, the Chad Delegation and the Arab Parliamentary Union for the friendly cooperation with the OAU Observers.

More important, the OAU Team would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to the General Elections Authority and the People of the Republic of the Sudan for the hospitality and close cooperation extended to it. The OAU would like to reaffirm its commitment to the promotion of the democratization process being undertaken by the People of the Sudan and will always be ready to render any possible assistance that may be required.

Finally, the Organization of African Unity wishes the Government and the People of the Republic of the Sudan lasting peace and continued prosperity.

Addis Ababa, December 29, 2000

United Nations A/55/723

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 73
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of 25 December 2000 by the official representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the completion of the reduction of Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia, in accordance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

01-20091 (E) 080101 080101

Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the official representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Russian Federation, in accordance with the agreements set forth in the Russian-Georgian statement (Istanbul, 17 November 1999) and its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, has completed within the deadline set — by 31 December 2000 — the reduction of Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia. As a result of the measures carried out, their quantity does not exceed the levels established under the adapted Conventional Armed Forces Treaty for temporary deployment on the bases.

The weapons reduction process is being carried out in accordance with the timetables agreed upon with the Georgian side.

Under the Treaty rules, a number of inspections were carried out with the participation of foreign observers, including inspections at the Russian monitoring site in Gudauta (Abkhazia, Georgia). International inspectors were given access to the equipment situated in the territory of the State under inspection, but not controlled by its central authorities owing to the continuing Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. In the complicated conditions of the unresolved conflict, the agreed quantity of military equipment has been withdrawn from the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia.

In accordance with the mutual agreement on the part of Moscow and Tbilisi, the Russian-Georgian talks on carrying out the other obligations set forth in the aforementioned statement of 17 November 1999 will be continued. The Russian side confirms its position that all its provisions are interrelated and subject to implementation in all aspects.

Moscow hopes that all the other parties to the Treaty and the Istanbul agreements will also strictly observe the obligations that they have undertaken.

25 December 2000

United Nations A/55/724

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 133
Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Financial performance report of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000. The General Assembly, by its resolution 54/245 A of 23 December 1999, appropriated an amount of $427,061,800 gross ($410,091,700 net) for the establishment and maintenance of the Mission for the same period, inclusive of the amount of $200 million authorized by its resolution 53/241 of 28 July 1999.

Expenditures for the period totalled $361,789,800 gross ($352,231,400 net), excluding budgeted voluntary contributions in kind of $585,500, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $65,272,000 gross ($57,860,300 net).

The unencumbered balance resulted mainly under civilian personnel costs, due to higher than anticipated vacancy rates among civilian police and international and local staff.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Mission are set out in paragraph 14 of the report.

01-20098 (E) 240101

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the Security Council established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission In Kosovo (UNMIK). By the same resolution, the Council decided that the international civil and security presences in Kosovo were established for an initial period of 12 months, to continue thereafter unless the Council decides otherwise. The operational requirements of the Mission were set out in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council of 12 June 1999 (S/1999/672), 12 July 1999 (S/1999/779), 16 September 1999 (S/1999/987 and Add.1), 23 December 1999 (S/1999/1250 and Add.1) and 3 March 2000 (S/2000/177 and Add.1-3).

2. The budget for the maintenance of UNMIK for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General of 22 October 1999 (A/54/494 and Corr.1) and amounted to $456,451,200 gross ($437,755,400 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind amounting to $585,500. It provided for a strength of 38 military liaison officers, 4,718 civilian police, 1,269 international staff, 3,566 local staff, 18 National Officers and 203 United Nations Volunteers. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 55 of its report of 19 November 1999 (A/54/622), recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $427,061,800 gross for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000.

3. The General Assembly, by its resolution 54/245 A of 23 December 1999, appropriated an amount of $427,061,800 gross ($410,091,700 net) for the establishment and maintenance of the Mission for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000, inclusive of the amount of $200 million authorized by its resolution 53/241 of 28 July 1999. The total amount has been assessed on Member States.

II. Implementation of the budget

4. Information on the operations of UNMIK and on the situation on the ground during the period under review is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 12 June 1999 (S/1999/672), 12 July 1999 (S/1999/779), 16 September 1999 (S/1999/987 and Add.1), 23 December 1999 (S/1999/1250 and Add.1), 3 March 2000 (S/2000/177 and Add.1-3) and 6 June 2000 (S/2000/538 and Add.1).

5. During the period under review, UNMIK was established with broad and complex tasks to provide transitional administration for Kosovo, while establishing and overseeing the development of provisional democratic self-governing institutions to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo. In coordination with the people of Kosovo, UNMIK performed all the basic administrative functions, such as banking, customs, health services, education, post and telecommunications, and organized municipal elections. UNMIK is cooperating with other international organizations as full partners under United Nations leadership.

6. During the reporting period, high vacancy rates among civilian personnel had the most significant impact on the implementation of the budget. The budget contained in document A/54/494 and Corr.1 included actual expenditures for the period from 10 June to 31 August 1999 and estimated costs for the period from 1

September 1999 to 30 June 2000. This format was in accordance with the provisions of resolution 53/241, in which the General Assembly requested information on the utilization of resources until the time of the submission of the report. As compared with the projected vacancy rate of 35 per cent for international staff and 15 per cent for local staff, the actual average vacancy rates during that 10-month period were 43 per cent for international staff and 25 per cent for local staff. The average vacancy rate for civilian police was 57 per cent, as compared to the projected full deployment of the civilian police by December 1999. The total average vacancy rate for civilian staff during the reporting period was 38 per cent. Consequently, while operational requirements of the Mission were 0.6 per cent higher than budgeted, civilian personnel costs were lower by 28 per cent.

7. Based on the experience gained during the early phases of the Mission, changes were made to the administrative structure of the Mission. The Office of Gender Affairs was transferred to Civil Administration and the Language Unit was transferred from the Division of Administration to report to the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Also, following recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Human Rights was expanded and renamed the Office of Human Rights and Community Affairs. The Civil Administration component of the Mission was restructured, following the establishment in December 1999 of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS). Twenty departments were identified to administer the Kosovo region, with each department co-directed by an international and local co-head. Other structural changes to the Civil Administration component of the Mission included the establishment of a Monitoring Unit and an Office of Statistics. As the need for a prolonged, large-scale humanitarian role in Kosovo was not foreseen, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees phased out its operations in the region at the end of the period.

8. The cost estimates for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000 did not contain provisions for the deployment of the Special Police Units. However, it was stated in paragraph 21 of document A/54/494 and Corr.1 that should some police be deployed as formed units, the related requirements would be met through the redeployment of approved resources. Beginning in March 2000, six Special Police Units from four Member States were deployed as part of the civilian police component of the Mission. The costs associated with the deployment of the six formed police units, including civilian police cost reimbursement, contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment, alterations and renovations to premises and transport of contingent-owned equipment, were met through the redeployment of funds from the resources allocated for mission subsistence allowance.

III. Financial performance report for the period from10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000

9. As indicated in table 1 below, from the appropriation of $427,061,800 gross ($410,091,700 net) for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000, expenditures amounted to $361,789,800 gross ($352,231,400 net), inclusive of $106,334,800 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unspent balance of $65,272,000 gross ($57,860,300 net) represents, in gross terms, some 15.2 per cent of the amount appropriated. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance

information for the reporting period by budget line item, with supplementary information on significant variances presented in annex II. Annex IV contains a chart showing appropriation and expenditure by main budget groups.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel	2 696.2	3 934.1	(1 237.9)
Civilian personnel	216 543.4	158 172.8	58 370.6
Operational requirements	188 425.6	188 546.1	(120.5)
Other programmes[b]	2 426.5	1 578.4	848.1
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	-
Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-
Staff assessment	16 970.1	9 558.4	7 411.7
Gross requirements	**427 061.8**	**361 789.8**	**65 272.0**
Income from staff assessment	(16 970.1)	(9 558.4)	(7 411.7)
Net requirements	**410 091.7**	**352 231.4**	**57 860.3**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	585.5	585.5	-
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-
Total resources	**427 647.3**	**362 375.3**	**65 272.0**

[a] Includes an amount of $106,334,800 in unliquidated obligations.
[b] Excluding personnel.

10. Information on the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the reporting period is given in table 2 and annex III to the present report.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military liaison officers	38	33	14
Military contingents	-	-	-
Civilian police	4 718	2 015	57
International staff	1 148	576	50
National Officers	12	1	99
Local staff	3 282	2 176	34
United Nations Volunteers[a]	203	127	37

[a] In addition, 500 United Nations Volunteers were required for 3.5 months, from 15 March to 30 June 2000.

IV. Application of article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations

11. In a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session (A/C.5/33/45) on the United Nations Emergency Force/United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNEF/UNDOF), the Secretary-General indicated, inter alia, that the amounts owed to troop-contributing Governments could not be paid in the time frame envisaged under financial regulation 4.3. That situation continues to be experienced in current peacekeeping operations. Consequently, over the years the Assembly has adopted special arrangements whereby appropriations required in respect of obligations owed to Governments providing contingents and/or logistic support to the mission have been retained beyond the period stipulated under financial regulations 4.3 and 4.4.

12. In the case of UNMIK, as in the case of UNEF/UNDOF and other more recent peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), there are currently certain amounts obligated for reimbursement to Governments for death and disability compensation, contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment that will be required for the settlement of claims.

13. Accordingly, it is proposed that special arrangements with regard to article IV of the Financial Regulations similar to those contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 53/238 of 8 June 1999 related to MINURCA be applied to UNMIK, as follows:

(a) At the end of the 12-month period provided for in regulation 4.3, any unliquidated obligations of the financial period in question relating to goods supplied and services rendered by Governments for which claims have been received or which are covered by established reimbursement rates shall be transferred to accounts payable; such accounts payable shall remain recorded in the special account until payment is effected;

(b) (i) Any other unliquidated obligations of the financial period in question owed to Governments for provision of goods and services rendered but not yet verified, as well as other obligations owed to Governments, for which claims have not yet been received shall remain valid for an additional period of four years following the end of the 12-month period provided for in regulation 4.3;

(ii) Claims received during this four-year period as well as approved verification reports shall be treated as provided under subparagraph (a) above, if appropriate;

(iii) At the end of the additional four-year period, any unliquidated obligations shall be cancelled and the then-remaining balance of any appropriations retained therefor shall be surrendered.

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session

14. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMIK are as follows:

(a) **To decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $65,272,000 gross ($57,860,300 net) for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000;**

(b) **A decision that the special arrangements as regards article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, as detailed in paragraph 13 above, be applied to UNMIK.**

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*(1)* *Apportionment* [a]	*(2)* *Non-recurrent expenditures*	*(3)* *Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*(4) = (1 - 3)* *Variance*
I. Military personnel				
1. Military observers	1 056.2	-	1 175.2	(119.0)
2. Military contingents	-	-	-	-
3. Other requirements pertaining to military personnel				
(a) Contingent-owned equipment	-	-	924.4	(924.4)
(b) Self-sustainment	-	-	266.5	(266.5)
(c) Death and disability compensation	1 640.0	-	1 568.0	72.0
Subtotal, line 3	1 640.0	-	2 758.9	(1 118.9)
Total, category I	**2 696.2**	**-**	**3 934.1**	**(1 237.9)**
II. Civilian personnel				
1. Civilian police	97 427.7	-	62 983.6	34 444.1
2. International and local staff	112 601.9	-	81 632.4	30 969.5
3. United Nations Volunteers	6 513.8	-	13 556.8	(7 043.0)
4. Government-provided personnel	-	-	-	-
5. Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
Total, category II	**216 543.4**	**-**	**158 172.8**	**58 370.6**
III. Operational requirements				
1. Premises/accommodations	10 272.5	14 229.2	17 626.3	(7 353.8)
2. Infrastructure repairs	-	-	-	-
3. Transport operations	77 308.9	68 407.0	76 700.5	608.4
4. Air operations	11 376.3	-	8 905.1	2 471.2
5. Naval operations	-	-	-	-
6. Communications	46 558.5	22 778.6	43 076.4	3 482.1
7. Other equipment	31 601.9	29 715.1	30 559.5	1 042.4
8. Supplies and services	10 007.5	-	8 536.1	1 471.4
9. Air and surface freight				
(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	-	-	1 402.0	(1 402.0)
(b) Commercial freight and cartage	1 300.0	-	1 740.2	(440.2)
Subtotal, line 9	1 300.0	-	3 142.2	(1 842.2)
Total, category III	**188 425.6**	**135 129.9**	**188 546.1**	**(120.5)**

Category of expenditure	(1) Apportionment [a]	(2) Non-recurrent expenditures	(3) Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)	(4) = (1 - 3) Variance
IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	1 168.0	342.7	539.7	628.3
3. Training programmes	358.5	-	138.7	219.8
4. Mine-clearing programmes	900.0	-	900.0	-
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	-	-
Total, category IV	**2 426.5**	**342.7**	**1 578.4**	**848.1**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	-	-
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-	-
VII. Staff assessment	**16 970.1**	-	**9 558.4**	**7 411.7**
Gross requirements, categories I-VII	427 061.8	135 472.6	361 789.8	65 272.0
VIII. Income from staff assessment	**(16 970.1)**	-	**(9 558.4)**	**(7 411.7)**
Net requirements, categories I-VIII	410 091.7	135 472.6	352 231.4	57 860.3
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	**585.5**	-	**585.5**	-
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-	-
Total	**427 647.3**	**135 472.6**	**362 375.3**	**65 272.0**

[a] Based on appropriation provided in General Assembly resolution 54/245 A.

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Military personnel

Apportionment: $2,696,200; expenditure: $3,934,100; variance: ($1,237,900)

1. The additional requirement of $1,237,900 under this heading was attributable to the need to reimburse formed police units for contingent-owned equipment ($924,400) and self-sustainment ($266,500), higher travel costs for the military liaison officers ($119,000), offset by lower requirements for death and disability compensation ($72,000).

Military observers

Apportionment: $1,056,200; expenditure: $1,175,200; variance: ($119,000)

2. The additional requirement of $119,000 under this heading resulted from the higher cost of the military liaison officers' travel. Owing to the small number of liaison officers travelling from different locations, charter flights could not be arranged. Consequently, the actual cost per trip averaged $2,700 as compared to $1,700 provided in the budget. Also, 20 additional trips took place during the period as a number of military liaison officers were assigned to UNMIK from other missions and needed to be repatriated at the end of their tour of duty.

Other requirements pertaining to military personnel

Apportionment: $1,640,000; expenditure: $2,758,900; variance: ($1,118,900)

3. The additional requirement of $1,118,900 under this heading resulted from the need for $924,400 for contingent-owned equipment and $266,500 for self-sustainment, in connection with the deployment of formed police units in the Mission area. The first unit was deployed in March 2000 and another five units were deployed during the period from April to June 2000. As the need for the deployment of the formed police units was still being evaluated during the time of budget preparation, no provision was made for this purpose in the cost estimates.

Civilian personnel

Apportionment: $216,543,400; expenditure: $158,172,800; variance: $58,370,600

4. The unutilized balance of $58,370,600 resulted from reduced requirements totalling $65,413,600 under civilian police ($34,444,100) and international and local staff ($30,969,500), which was partially offset by additional requirements for United Nations Volunteers ($7,043,000).

Civilian police

Apportionment: $97,427,700; expenditure: $62,983,600; variance: $34,444,100

5. The unutilized balance under this heading was primarily due to reduced requirements for mission subsistence allowance. This was attributable to (a) the

delayed deployment of civilian police, and (b) the deployment of some police as formed units. Although the budget provided for the payment of mission subsistence allowance to all 4,718 civilian police, no subsistence allowance was paid to the formed units. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the report, savings under this line item were redeployed to meet other needs of the formed units. The cost estimates provided for the full deployment of the civilian police by December 1999. As at 30 June 2000, the civilian police component of the Mission numbered 3,881 police, or 82 per cent of the authorized strength of 4,718. The average strength of the Civilian Police during the period was 2,015 or 43 per cent of the authorized level.

International and local staff

Apportionment: $112,601,900; expenditure: $81,632,400; variance: $30,969,500

6. The unutilized balance of $30,969,500 was attributable to higher actual vacancy rates for staff than estimated.

7. The actual average vacancy rate for international staff during the period under review was 50 per cent compared to a budgeted vacancy rate of 35 per cent. Local staff salaries were calculated at level four of a salary scale applicable for the mission area, inclusive of a 15 per cent vacancy rate. The actual average vacancy rate for local staff during the period under review was 34 per cent. In addition, 87 per cent of the local staff were recruited initially at levels two and three, whereas the cost estimates were based on level four salaries. Furthermore, only 1 National Officer out of 12 was deployed and only as of May 2000.

8. Additional requirements under other travel amounted to approximately $1 million. The original requirements contained in document A/54/494 and Corr.1 amounted to $1,354,700, consisting of expenditures of $208,100 for the period from 10 June to 31 August 1999 and cost estimates of $1,146,600 for the period from 1 September 1999 to 30 June 2000. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that this amount be reduced by $146,600 to $1,208,100. Actual expenditures totalled $2,204,700. Additional requirements related primarily to travel that was unforeseen at the time of budget preparation.

9. The main item for which additional resources were required was for travel in connection with the transport of equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The budget provided $115,071 for 12 trips by UNMIK logistics personnel as well as for convoys to drive 819 vehicles from the Base to UNMIK. Actual expenditures in relation to travel to and from the Base amounted to $461,900. The actual cost of 15 separate convoys amounted to $172,200. Furthermore, following the crash of a World Food Programme supply aircraft, and the subsequent closure of Pristina airport, it was necessary to conduct 26 supply convoys from Brindisi to Kosovo at a cost of $189,000.

10. Travel requirements for the Civilian Police Commissioner had been estimated at $4,917 for debriefing at Headquarters. Actual requirements included travel to utilize the services of forensic laboratories in Bulgaria in the conduct of criminal investigations and examinations ($62,600), travel by the Commissioner or his representative on official business to New York and locations within Europe, including accompanying the Special Representative ($46,000), as well as travel within the mission area to review and coordinate the work of UNMIK police in the various regions ($17,600).

11. Actual requirements for the travel of Civil Administration staff amounted to $80,000 compared to the budgeted amount of $26,600. Additional requirements resulted from the need for the international staff of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) offices to interact with European counterparts at various meetings and to discuss issues related to local governance, health and welfare, returnees, vehicle registration and identity systems and passports.

12. An amount of $7,704 was budgeted for travel of four Department of Judicial Affairs staff. Expenditures amounted to $48,900 for travel to Europe and North America to address issues related primarily to the establishment of the penal system in Kosovo. Staff visited penal institutions, initiated discussions with donors, addressed technical development issues and conducted interviews for the recruitment of international judges.

13. Requirements for senior staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were estimated at $31,293 for the travel of the Under-Secretary-General and two staff. Actual requirements for Department travel amounted to $79,458 for a total of 11 trips by the Under-Secretary-General and his staff, travel by staff from the Office of Operations, by the Military Adviser, as well as five trips by staff of the Civilian Police Unit.

14. While no budgetary provision had been made for travel by staff of other departments in the Secretariat, three trips were undertaken by staff of the Department of Public Information to advise on the delivery of public information programmes ($15,981), five trips by staff of the Department of Political Affairs to advise on the preparation and conduct of municipal elections in Kosovo ($17,954) and six trips by staff of the Department of Management ($19,414). The latter included one trip by the Treasurer to review banking and cash management, three trips by staff of the Office of Human Resources Management to brief UNMIK personnel, conduct local salary surveys and to review the provision of medical services to mission personnel, one trip by the Controller to review financial management and internal control and one trip by staff of the Office of Central Support Services.

15. Other travel, amounting to $158,895, which was not foreseen at the time of budget preparation, included travel to other organizations and United Nations agencies (the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Volunteers programme headquarters in Bonn) for conferences and consultations, the travel of 10 representatives to the Phase V Working Group on contingent-owned equipment, as well as the travel of 9 members of the Security Council and 3 accompanying Secretariat staff.

United Nations Volunteers

Apportionment: $6,513,800; expenditure: $13,556,800; variance: ($7,043,000)

16. The additional requirement of $7,043,000 under this heading related to the phasing-in of 500 additional United Nations Volunteers needed for a 6.5-month period, starting 15 March 2000, to assist in the voter registration process. The need for additional United Nations Volunteers for this purpose was not foreseen at the time the budget was under preparation.

Operational requirements

Apportionment: $188,425,600; expenditure: $188,546,100; variance: ($120,500)

17. Additional requirements of $120,500 relate to an amount totalling $9,196,000 for premises/accommodation ($7,353,800), transport of contingent-owned equipment ($1,402,000) and commercial freight and cartage ($440,200), offset by reduced requirements totalling $9,075,500 for transport operations ($608,400), air operations ($2,471,200), communications ($3,482,100), other equipment ($1,042,400) and supplies and services ($1,471,400).

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $10,272,500; expenditure: $17,626,300; variance: ($7,353,800)

18. The additional requirement of $7,353,800 under this heading resulted from the need to construct camps and provide accommodation and storage facilities for the Special Police Units, for which no provision was made in the cost estimates. The Mission completed construction of six camps for the Special Police Units before 30 June 2000 and the construction of two more camps was under way. In order to accommodate the Special Police Units 110 ablution units, 39 soft-wall multipurpose buildings, 480 hard-wall dormitory/office modules, 420 accommodation containers and 10 kitchen sets were purchased.

19. Although no budgetary provision had been made for this purpose, it had been stated in paragraph 21 of document A/54/494 and Corr.1 that should some police be deployed as formed units, the related requirements would be met through the redeployment of approved resources.

20. The construction of prefabricated offices was also completed at headquarters, logistic support facilities and at a helicopter base at Pristina airport. These offices were used as temporary police sub-stations and to supplement police office space.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $77,308,900; expenditure: $76,700,500; variance: $608,400

21. The unutilized balance of $608,400 under this heading was attributable to reduced requirements for the purchase of vehicles, which were partially offset by higher operating costs.

22. The cost estimates provided for the purchase of 2,977 vehicles, as detailed in annex II C of document A/54/494 and Corr.1. During the reporting period, a total of 2,952 vehicles were purchased and 167 vehicles (17 passenger vehicles, 42 special purpose vehicles, 22 engineering vehicles and 86 trailers) were transferred at no cost from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. As a result of the procurement of fewer vehicles and actual lower cost of some vehicles, compared to the standard costs used in the budget estimates, an unutilized balance of $2.5 million was reported under this line item. Additionally, delays in setting up transport workshops resulted in lower requirements for workshop equipment.

23. These savings were partially offset by additional requirements for spare parts and maintenance due to extreme weather conditions, poor roads and, as a result, high accident rates for the Mission's vehicles. Operating in this harsh environment,

vehicles needed to be maintained at lower intervals of every 5,000 kilometres, causing higher turnover of the spare parts and higher maintenance costs.

Air operations

Apportionment: $11,376,300; expenditure: $8,905,100; variance: $2,471,200

24. The unutilized balance of $2,471,200 under this heading resulted primarily from the withdrawal of one helicopter on 6 November 1999. The budget was based on the hire of two medium-lift helicopters from 4 August 1999 through 30 June 2000. However, initial usage of the two helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft in the first months was found to be insufficient to justify the continued deployment of three aircraft in the Mission. Lower expenditures were also recorded for aviation fuel in view of the fact that the cost of fuel remained under the budgeted amount of 30 cents per litre until February 2000.

Communications

Apportionment: $46,558,500; expenditure: $43,076,400; variance: $3,482,100

25. The unspent balance of $3,482,100 under this heading resulted mainly from the lower costs of commercial communications due to faster than anticipated deployment of a satellite network (VSAT) to the regions, as well as lower than expected rates for INMARSAT calls and delays in receiving charges from the providers. The unutilized balance was also attributable to the purchase of fewer telephone sets. Although the budget provided for the acquisition of 7,800 analog sets and 2,200 digital sets, only 3,200 analog sets and 600 digital sets were purchased.

Other equipment

Apportionment: $31,601,900; expenditure: $30,559,500; variance: $1,042,400

26. An unutilized balance of $1,042,400 was realized under other equipment for a number of reasons, namely, lower unit costs and the purchase of fewer quantities of EDP equipment and field defence equipment than budgeted. These reduced requirements were partially offset by the purchase of equipment needed for the camps set up for the formed special units and changes in the assumptions on which the cost estimates were based.

27. The regional procurement of office furniture and transfer by United Nations Logistics Base supply flight resulted in lower unit costs and lower freight costs.

28. Lower expenditures were reported under electronic data processing equipment due to the non-procurement of 940 desktop computers, 49 laptops, 3,376 laser jet printers, 207 high speed laser jet printers, 850 portable printers, 48 scanners, 5 plotters and 2,853 uninterruptible power supply units, as well as to the fact that some actual unit costs were significantly less than the standard costs used in the cost estimates. The average cost of servers for example was $18,000 compared to the budgeted amount of $33,000.

29. Provision had been made under observation equipment for the purchase of binoculars and night observation devices. Stocks subsequently became available at the United Nations Logistics Base and no orders for new equipment were placed.

The United Nations Logistics Base was asked to submit the equipment for technical inspection to ascertain its operational status and to arrange repairs, if necessary. The inspection took longer than expected to arrange, because of the specialist nature of the equipment, and the results of the inspection were made know only at the end of the financial period.

30. The budget provided resources under field defence equipment for the procurement of various items of police security and safety equipment. Delays in the deployment of civilian police resulted in lower expenditures under this line item.

31. Savings in respect of the above items of equipment were partially offset by equipment purchased for the formed units and the greater demands for generators and office equipment.

32. As stated in paragraph 3 above, the budget did not provide for the deployment of formed police units. The deployment of six formed units between March and June 2000 resulted in the need for various items of accommodation equipment (beds, wardrobes, lamps, desks, night tables, chairs, as well as kitchen and laundry equipment), emergency water storage tanks, septic tanks, 20 industrial-size refrigerators, 20 chest freezers, electrical transformers and air conditioners for the camps built to accommodate the formed police units.

33. The budget had been prepared on the assumption that all requirements for generators could be met from surplus stock at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, and therefore provision had only been included to cover the cost of freight. However, due to the start-up of several peacekeeping missions during the 1999/2000 fiscal year, the generators that had been planned to be obtained from the Logistics Base had to be procured commercially. Moreover, additional requirements for generators arose from the creation of a departmental structure in Civil Administration and the rapid expansion of Civil Administration and UNMIK into the municipalities. The demand for standby power in some locations had also grown to the limits of capacity of existing generators which either needed to be replaced with larger generator sets or supplementation.

34. There was also a greater demand for office equipment from the Civil Administration departments and UNMIK police than originally estimated. Furthermore, owing to the geographic distribution of staff and facilities, the sharing of large-size equipment, such as overhead projectors, heavy-duty shredders, photocopiers, among others, became impractical.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $10,007,500; expenditure: $8,536,100; variance: $1,471,400

35. The unutilized balance of $1,471,400 under this heading resulted from the lower costs of miscellaneous services ($1,158,600) and supplies ($312,800).

36. The unutilized resources of $1,158,600 under miscellaneous services were due to the fact that the local telephone and network cabling project was charged to the alterations and renovations to premises line item, as well as to lower expenditures for data processing services, medical treatment and claims, as a result of delays in the deployment of personnel.

37. The unspent balance of $312,800 under miscellaneous supplies was due mainly to lower requirements under quartermaster and general stores. Actual expenditures averaged $15.75 per person per month compared to the standard cost of $17 used in the cost estimates.

Air and surface freight

Apportionment: $1,300,000; expenditure: $3,142,200; variance: ($1,842,200)

38. The additional requirement under this heading related mainly to the transport of contingent-owned equipment to support the rapid deployment of the formed police units. Furthermore, the actual costs of commercial freight and cartage from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi were higher than projected due to the closure of Pristina airport for two months following the crash of a World Food Programme aircraft. During this period UNMIK had to rely heavily on road convoys.

Other programmes

Apportionment: $2,426,500; expenditure: $1,578,400; variance: $848,100

39. The unutilized balance of $848,100 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements for public information programmes ($628,300) and training programmes ($219,800).

Public information programmes

Apportionment: $1,168,000; expenditure: $539,700; variance: $628,300

40. The unutilized balance of $628,300 under this heading related to lower costs of the equipment procured for the television studio, the materials and supplies used by the Division of Public Information and the printing of brochures, leaflets and newsletters.

Training programmes

Apportionment: $358,500; expenditure: $138,700; variance: $219,800

41. The unutilized balance of $219,800 under this heading related to lower costs of electronic data processing and communications training and the postponement to a later date of the language and transport training.

Staff assessment

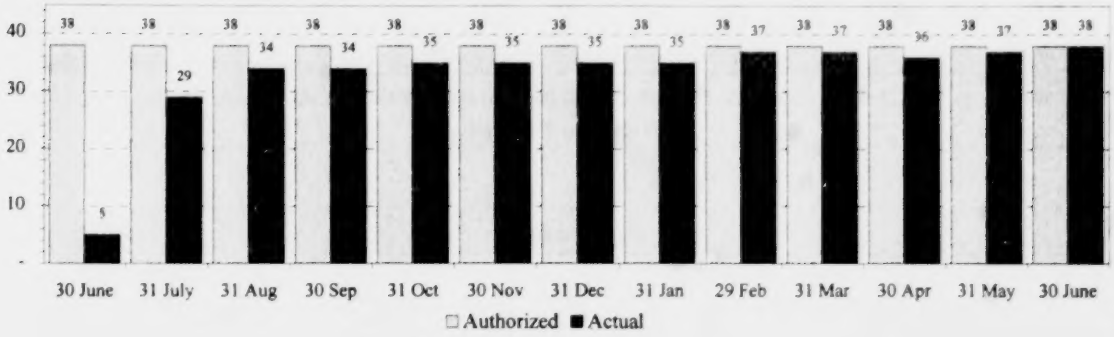
Apportionment: $16,970,100; expenditure: $9,558,400; variance: $7,411,700

42. The unutilized balance of $7,411,700 under this heading related to higher vacancy rates for international and local staff during the period under review.

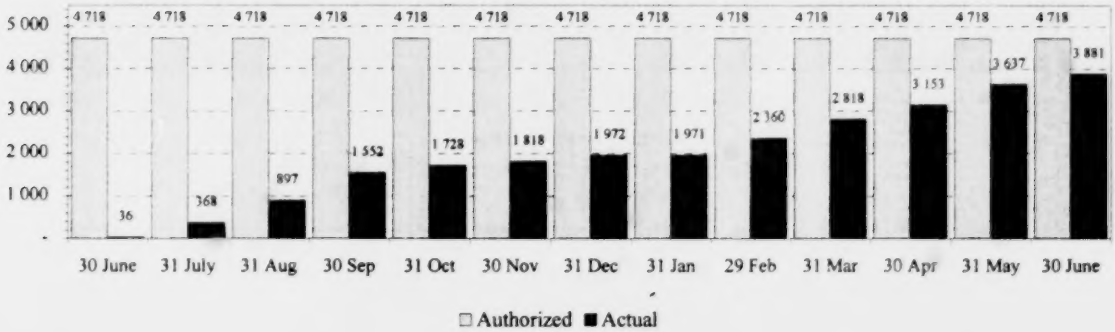
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of civilian and military personnel for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000

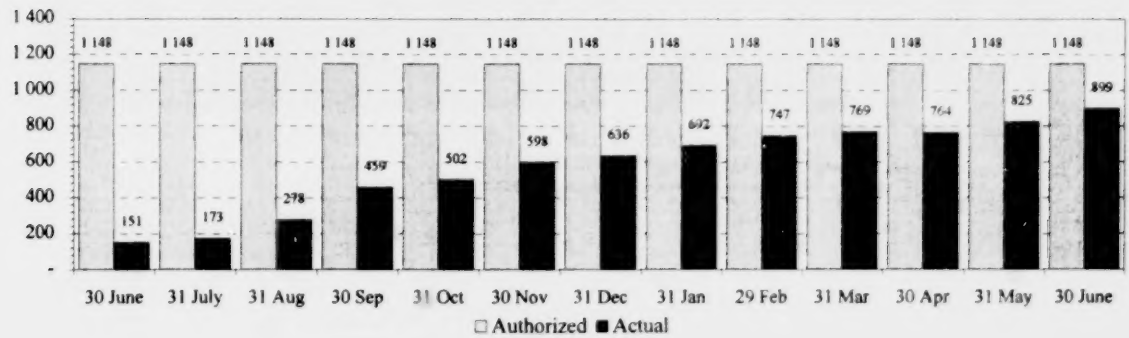
1. Military observers



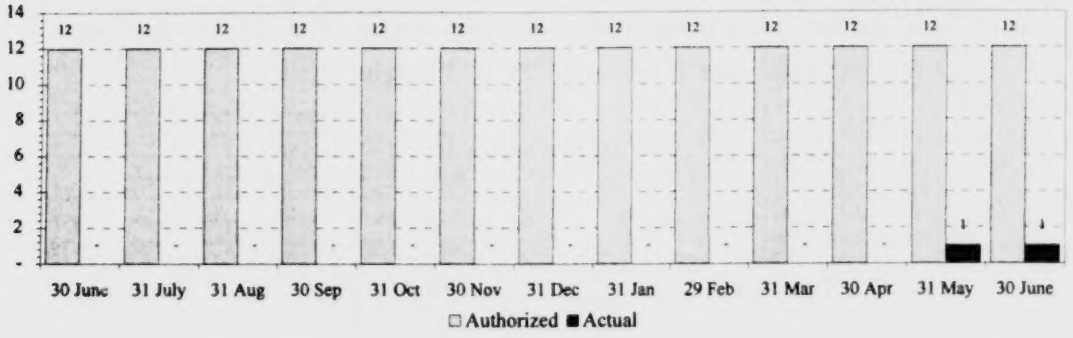
2. Civilian police



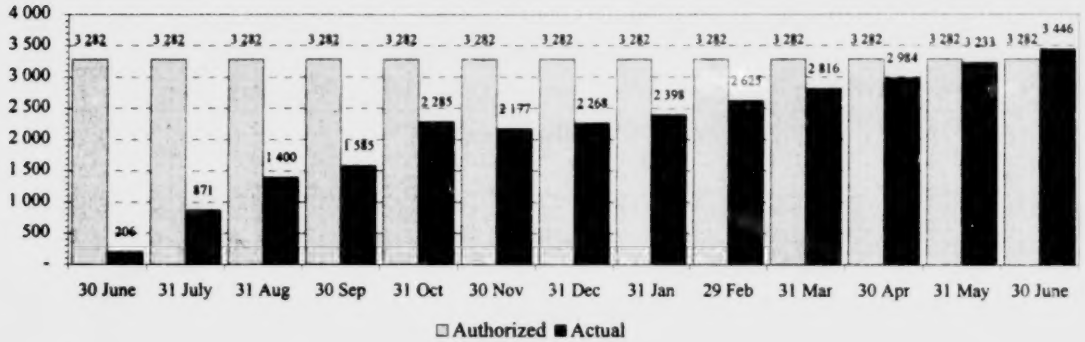
3. International staff



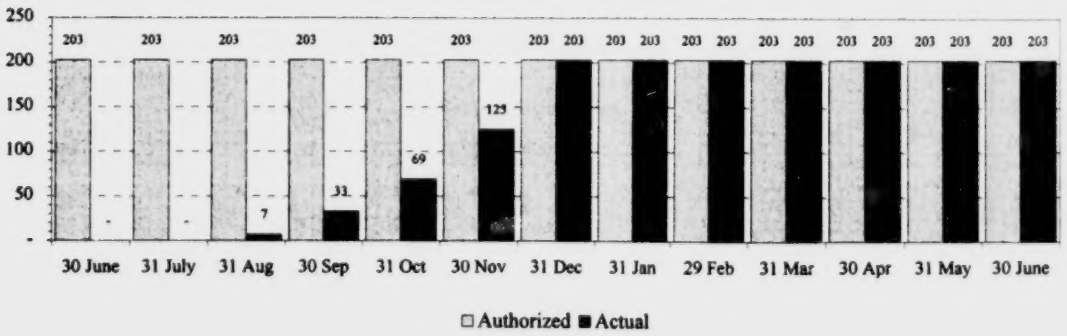
4. National officers



5. Local staff

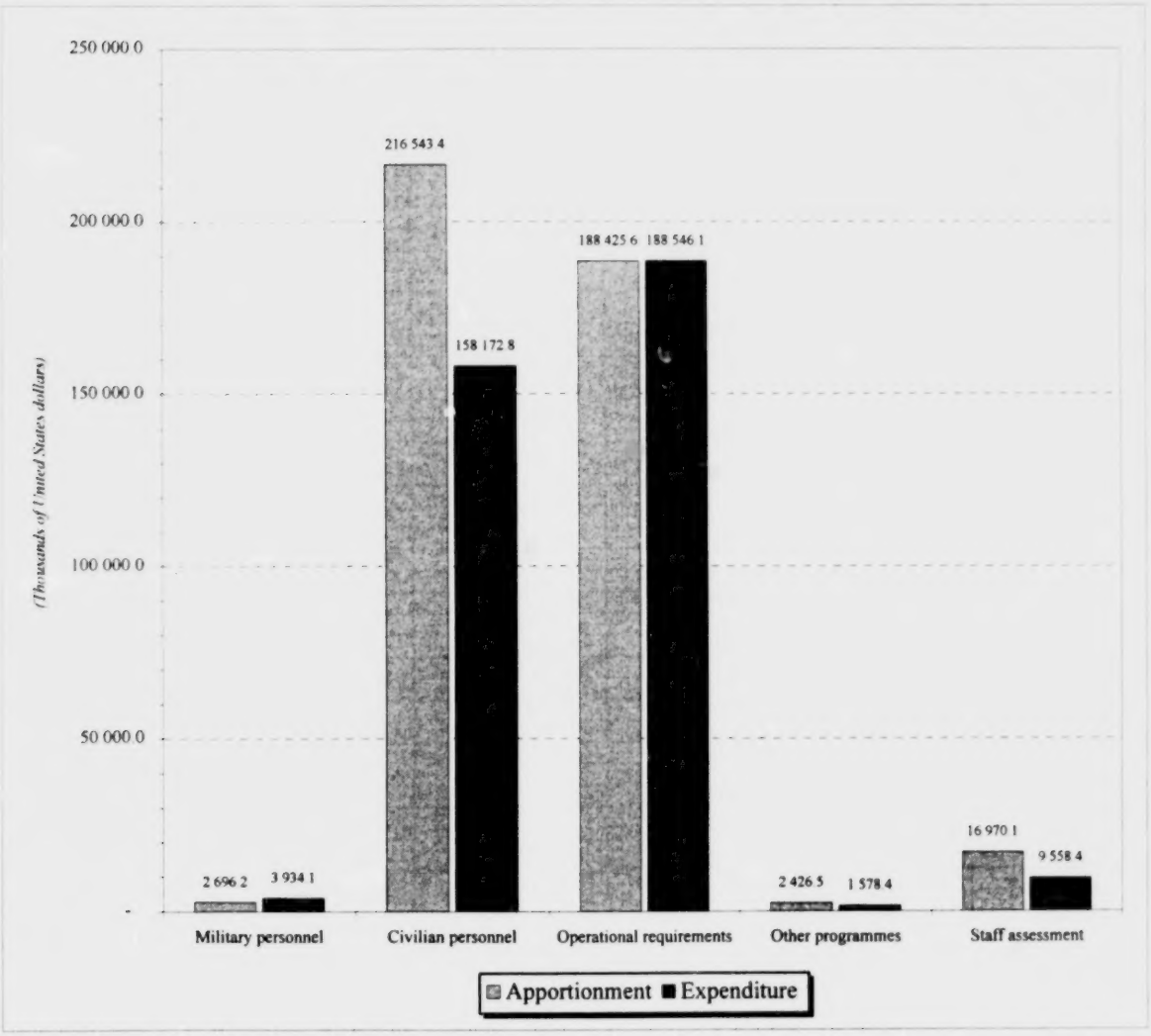


6. United Nations Volunteers



Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 June 2000



United Nations A/55/725–S/2001/2

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 January 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 164
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 2 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to call your attention to two heinous acts of terrorism directed against Israeli civilians in the last three days.

Yesterday evening, at approximately 7 p.m. local time, a 10-kilogram bomb, placed in a stolen car, was detonated near a major downtown intersection in the Israeli city of Netanya. The explosion injured 54 people and caused significant damage to nearby shops and businesses.

This act follows the appalling murder of a Jewish couple after they were ambushed by Palestinian gunmen near the town of Ofra on 31 December 2000. Five of the couple's six children were in the car at the time of the attack, and are presently being treated for moderate to serious wounds at a hospital in Jerusalem.

These acts of terrorism come amid a wave of escalation of terrorist activity directed against Israel in recent months. Just four days ago, a bomb exploded on a Tel Aviv bus injuring 12 passengers, 2 of them critically. I should also like to recall the recent bombing in Hadera which killed two Israelis and wounded 41 and was referred to in my letter to you dated 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), as well as the reprehensible targeting of a bus of Israeli schoolchildren on 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and the explosion in the crowded Jerusalem marketplace of Mahane Yehuda on 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

Despite various agreements calling for an end to violence and the resumption of security cooperation between the sides, in particular the Sharm Al-Sheikh understanding of 17 October 2000, the Palestinian Authority has failed to unequivocally call for an end to the violence and to reincarcerate released terrorist prisoners. Instead, the Palestinian leadership has, both tacitly and directly, lent its approval to the use of armed aggression against Israeli soldiers and civilians.

We call upon the Palestinian leadership to fulfil its responsibilities to control terrorist elements operating in the areas under its control. The Government of Israel will continue to vigorously fight terrorism, and will not be deterred in its quest to

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arrive at a peaceful settlement that will ensure genuine peace and security for all the peoples of the Middle East.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

IGAD Khartoum Summit issues its Final Declaration, Khartoum, 23 November 2000

The Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) concluded its sessions at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum on Thursday evening, 23 November 2000, and issued the Khartoum Declaration. Hereunder is the full text of the Khartoum Declaration:

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Khartoum Declaration of the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government, Khartoum, 23 November 2000

We, Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, having met in Khartoum under the chairmanship of H.E. Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, and carried out extensive discussions on ways and means of consolidating our cooperation in various political, economic, social, humanitarian and other areas, have agreed on the following:

1. Political developments in the region

1.1 We express satisfaction at the positive political developments that have started to prevail in the subregion. This augurs well for the endeavours of maintaining peace and stability in our member countries and for creating a conducive atmosphere for the realization of the noble goal of peace, development and integration through enhanced efforts of collective subregional cooperation.

1.2 **On the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea**. We note with satisfaction the cessation of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and we congratulate the two countries for having reached and signed a cessation of hostilities agreement to this effect. It is our conviction that the implementation of this agreement, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), will bring a permanent solution to the conflict between them.

1.3 **On the Somalia and southern Sudan peace processes**. We have undertaken extensive consultations on the Somalia and southern Sudan peace processes and after hearing reports on both we have adopted the resolutions attached to this Declaration.

2. Enhancing subregional cooperation in the new millennium

2.1 We further recognize the need for our countries and peoples to come together and join efforts to meet the challenges that confront our region as we enter the new millennium. We are therefore convinced that our peoples have the right to live in peace and rekindle their aspirations for stronger and cohesive unity transcending

cultural, ideological and national differences. We furthermore commit ourselves to promoting participatory democracy and adapting it to suit local conditions in our member States. We also dedicate ourselves to promoting freedom of expression and association, transparency, good governance and the rule of law in our member States.

2.2 All forms of human rights — civil, cultural, economic, social and political — are integral and indivisible rights of our peoples. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to respect human rights and ensure their prevalence and protection through effective systems as a guarantee of, and a necessary factor for, sustainable development.

2.3 We encourage the establishment of regional associations of professional unions, Chambers of Industries and Commerce, parliamentarian unions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil societies of member States with the aim of promoting popular participation of civil society as important players in issues related to fundamental freedoms and the well-being of our peoples. We also direct the IGAD secretariat to coordinate activities of national NGOs of the member States and involve them in action as and when the need arises.

2.4 We also encourage the facilitation and expansion of inter-State trade among member countries of the subregion and request the IGAD secretariat to study the draft agreement proposed by the Sudan, in this respect, with a view to formulating a draft trade protocol to be submitted to the next ministerial meeting for consideration and possible approval.

2.5 We express our determination to promote regional economic cooperation and urge IGAD member States to take the necessary measures for the implementation of cross-border projects of a regional nature, in particular infrastructure projects in the area of transport, communication and power. This involvement of the private sector in various regional ventures, including trade service, shall be encouraged in view of the increasing role it is expected to play in accelerating regional integration.

2.6 We recognize the important role played by the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF) and urge the international community to contribute generously to promoting projects and programmes. We further urge the IGAD secretariat to vigorously pursue resource mobilization with IPF and other non-traditional international donor agencies with a view to accelerating implementation of IGAD's policy harmonization programmes and priority projects, in particular regional infrastructure projects. In this regard, we express our concern at the selectivity policy of donors in financing regional projects, as such selectivity is detrimental to regional and integration efforts. We endorse the resolutions adopted by the 20th Council of Ministers of IGAD on the relations with partners.

2.7 We view with concern the current drought afflicting our region and reaffirm our resolve to combat natural and man-made disasters. In this respect, we reiterate the need to establish a disaster preparedness mechanism and strengthen the Nairobi-based Drought Monitoring Centre to enable IGAD member States to respond more effectively in mitigating the impact of drought.

2.8 We reiterate our individual and collective commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to combat desertification, aimed at addressing the menace of drought and desertification, and further agree to establish National

Desertification Funds and a Subregional Facilitation Fund to support implementation of national action programmes and subregional action programmes.

2.9 We recognize the enormous potential for the region to be self-sufficient in food production. In this respect, we urge IGAD member States to formulate national and regional food security programmes and to take advantage of scientific and technological means for the improvement of production and productive capacities. We confirm our resolve to mobilize and utilize the human and natural resources of our region with the aim of achieving food security.

2.10 We commend the Inter-Agency Task Force on the United Nations Response to Long-term Food Security, Agricultural Development and Related Aspects in the Horn of Africa for its report on food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and appeal to the donor community to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

2.11 We call upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, and the Organization of African Unity to determine whether there is an outbreak of Rift Valley fever and assist IGAD member States in overcoming the problems of a livestock export ban, and avert the severe social and economic impact that will result if the ban continues.

2.12 We call upon our celebrated national intellectuals living in the diaspora to participate in the development of the subregion by:

(a) Enhancing our capacity in negotiation and lobbying for better agreements in the emerging technologies and markets;

(b) Assisting the region in monitoring international trends in information technology and biotechnology in order to benefit from such innovations;

(c) Developing alliances and partnerships with other institutions in order to improve acquisition of relevant science and technology for utilization and management of transboundary natural resources.

3. Privatization of the IGAD secretariat and institutional matters

3.1 We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the Authority and making it more responsive and better adapted to the changing needs in view of the challenges inherent in globalization and the new millennium. We therefore reiterate our commitment to pay our assessed contributions and settle all arrears in a timely manner.

3.2 We endorse the establishment of a mechanism in the IGAD subregion for the prevention, management and resolution of intra-State and inter-State conflicts, and direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft protocol on the establishment of the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARM) for consideration by the Assembly at its next meeting.

3.3 We appreciate the support IGAD has received in the establishment within the Secretariat of a Women's Desk and a Plan of Action which was endorsed by IGAD Ministers in charge of Gender Affairs, as an institutional policy framework to ensure the mainstreaming of gender into IGAD priority projects and programmes.

4. Implementation of decisions

We mandate IGAD focal point Ministers to take the necessary measures towards the implementation of the above-mentioned decisions as soon as possible. We also call upon the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to take all appropriate measures to follow up the implementation of these decisions.

Done at Khartoum on 23 November 2000.

United Nations A/55/727–S/2001/5

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 40, 56 and 94

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

The situation in the Middle East

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 2 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have pleasure in enclosing the Final Declaration of the Twenty-first Session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Gulf Arab States, as well as the Manama Declaration 2000 (see annexes I and II).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annexes could be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 56 and 94, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jassim M. **Buallay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 2 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its twenty-first session, held in Manama on 30 and 31 December 2000

At the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its twenty-first session in Manama on 30 and 31 December 2000 under the chairmanship of His Highness. The meeting was attended by:

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar; and

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Hujeilan, GCC Secretary-General, also participated in the meeting.

The leaders of the GCC countries expressed their happiness that His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, had returned, his health restored, from medical treatment overseas. They beseech Almighty God to bestow upon His Highness health and well-being and to grant him His assistance in his continued leadership of the United Arab Emirates and his continued participation in advancing the causes of the Arab and Islamic Nation.

The Supreme Council reviewed the results of joint action in the economic, social, political, military, security, cultural and information fields. It expressed satisfaction at the progress made, and it affirmed its genuine desire to advance the GCC process in order to keep pace with ongoing changes at the regional and international levels so as to achieve the worthy aspirations and objectives set forth in the GCC Statute. The Council stressed the importance of continuing the endeavour to promote the security, stability and development of the GCC countries and their peoples.

The cooperation process

Economic matters

The Supreme Council discussed the progress made in economic cooperation among member States on the basis of the reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Ministerial Council, the ministerial committees and the secretariat. It

instructed the relevant committees to reach prompt agreement on the rules, regulations and procedures necessary for the establishment of the GCC Customs Union according to schedule, and it commended the steps taken by Bahrain to lower its customs tariffs in conformity with the policies of the leaders of the GCC countries and in keeping with the measures and procedures required for the inception of the Customs Union.

With a view to promoting the implementation of article 22 of the Unified Economic Agreement, concerning the coordination of financial, monetary and banking policies, enhanced cooperation between monetary institutions and central banks and the endeavour to adopt a single currency and thus complete the process of economic integration, the Council approved a common "peg" for the currencies of member States as a preliminary step towards the achievement of this goal. It instructed the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation and the Committee of Governors of monetary institutions and central banks to draw up the necessary programme of work and a specific timetable for submission to the Supreme Council at its next session. It also instructed the Committee of Governors to reach agreement on mechanisms and procedures to simplify the use each member State's currency in the markets of the others.

The Council decided that nationals of each GCC country, whether natural or legal persons, should be allowed to engage in all economic activities and occupations in the other countries with the exception of a restricted number of such activities and occupations to be reserved for nationals of the State in question on an interim basis. It approved the opening to nationals of each GCC State of retail trade operations in other member States and adopted a set of amended rules for nationals of the GCC countries engaged in retail trade.

The Council agreed that the GCC Unified Customs Code should remain in force with recommendatory effect for a further one-year period with a view to its binding application by all member States as of January 2002. It approved the veterinary quarantine regulations and decided that they should enter into force and be binding on all member States after being amended to conform with the corresponding rules and regulations of the World Trade Organization.

The Council adopted a long-term strategy for relations and negotiations between GCC countries on the one hand and States, regional groupings and international organizations on the other, and it decided to ratify the Declaration of Principles on cooperation between the GCC countries and the States members of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) previously signed by the two parties.

The Council examined the situation in the oil market and took note with satisfaction of the outcome of the efforts made by member States in 2000, in cooperation with other producers within and outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and as endorsed by the OPEC summit in Caracas, to achieve market equilibrium at levels appropriate for both producers and consumers. It affirmed that its members would maintain the same course in 2001 so that the market would remain in equilibrium and prices would remain stable over the period approved by OPEC. In this connection, the Supreme Council instructed the ministers of petroleum and energy of member States to endeavour at the next OPEC meeting to cut production levels and to pursue any other measures that would preserve market equilibrium and secure the target price.

The Council stressed the importance of cooperation between producers and consumers and commended the outcome of the Seventh International Energy Forum, held in Riyadh in November 2000. It welcomed the proposal of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz of Saudi Arabia that a permanent secretariat should be established for the Forum in order to promote and facilitate dialogue between producers and consumers.

Man and the environment

The Supreme Council agreed that nationals of GCC countries employed in the civil service of any member State should, while serving, be treated in the same manner as nationals of the State to which they are assigned, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the decision of the ministers responsible for central civil service agencies in the GCC countries.

The Council affirmed that it was essential for the authorities concerned with both public and private sectors to continue to augment employment opportunities for citizens, and it instructed them to inform the Council at its next session of the progress made in this regard. It endorsed the recommendations made and mechanisms devised by the Joint Committee to study population structure and the impact of the expatriate workforce, stressing that member States must take the steps necessary to put them into effect.

The Council approved the Joint Curriculum Development Plan that had been submitted by the ministers of education and science as well as the measures and mechanisms necessary for their implementation.

Advisory Board of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council considered the views of the Advisory Board, its assessment of the progress made in economic cooperation among the GCC countries and its proposals for giving effect to the long-term development strategy as it related to scientific and technical capacity-building. It decided to refer the latter to the relevant ministerial committees to provide guidance for the further development and consolidation of joint economic action by the GCC countries. The Council requested the Advisory Board to explore and to submit its views on the following topics: the further development of the comprehensive educational system; energy and the environment; water strategies; and scientific and technical research.

Legal matters

The Supreme Council decided to approve the Riyadh document for a unified penal code for the GCC countries, with recommendatory effect, for a four-year period. It also decided that the Muscat document for a unified personal status code for the GCC countries should remain in force, with recommendatory effect, for a further four-year period.

Military matters

The Supreme Council considered the measures taken and the studies carried out. It expressed satisfaction at the progress made and the concrete measures taken to strengthen collective defence and military cooperation that had culminated in the Supreme Council's approval of the Joint Defence Treaty between the GCC States

and its signature by the leaders prior to ratification by each member State in accordance with its own procedures.

Security matters

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the nineteenth meeting of the GCC ministers of the interior, held in Riyadh on 24 and 25 October 2000, in particular those relating to the strengthening of mechanisms for follow-up and for communication between ministries of the interior in order to streamline formalities for the movement of persons and the flow of trade between member States and promote cooperation in the drug control field.

Political issues

The Supreme Council discussed developments in the context of Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the consequences of its occupation of Kuwait.

In its concern to create appropriate conditions for the achievement and consolidation of security, peace and stability in the Gulf region, the Council renewed its call to Iraq to discharge all of its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Tripartite Commission in devising an expeditious and definitive solution to the problem of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and hostages and to return all of the Kuwaiti property in its possession. The Council also urged Iraq to resume its cooperation with the United Nations in order to bring the outstanding issues relating to weapons of mass destruction and monitoring systems to a conclusion. It called upon Iraq and the Security Council to engage in a thoroughgoing dialogue for the discharge of these obligations in a just and comprehensive manner and in accordance with sound principles as a step towards the lifting of sanctions.

The Council stressed that Iraq must undertake to respect the security, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait and that it must take all necessary steps to demonstrate its peaceful intentions towards the GCC countries if the region's security and stability are to be assured.

The Council once again affirmed that it continued to welcome and to be prepared to participate in all humanitarian initiatives to mitigate the suffering of the Iraqi people. It stressed its resolve that the efforts of the GCC countries to alleviate this suffering within the framework of the relevant resolutions would be maintained.

The Council affirmed that the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq must be respected and that there must be no interference in its internal affairs.

The Council heard a report from the Committee of Three entrusted with the task of elaborating a mechanism to initiate direct negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the issue of Iran's occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. It heard that the Islamic Republic of Iran had refused to have anything to do with the Committee in connection with the mandate assigned to it by the Council and that Iran had rejected previous peace initiatives by the United Arab Emirates.

After a comprehensive assessment of developments in connection with the question of Iran's occupation of the three islands, the Supreme Council decided to

instruct the Ministerial Council to examine all the available peaceful means that might be conducive to the restoration to the United Arab Emirates of its legitimate rights in this regard, on the basis of the following principles:

Support for the claim of the United Arab Emirates to the three islands occupied by the Islamic Republic of Iran; and rejection of the continued occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates;

Affirmation of the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands as an integral part of the country and of the fact that it retains all of its rights in respect of those islands; and non-recognition of any sovereignty other than that of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, their territorial waters, their airspace and the related continental shelf and exclusive economic zone;

Rejection of Iran's claims concerning Abu Musa and of the measures it has instituted there and of all of their consequences, given that such measures pose a threat to security and stability in the region and heighten tensions there to the extent that they also threaten international peace and security; and affirmation of the categorical rejection by the GCC countries of the continued occupation of the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb by the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Condemnation of Iran's encroachments and the military exercises that it conducts on the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and in their territorial waters; and the requirement that Iran must desist from conducting such exercises given that they are acts of provocation that pose a threat to security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region, constitute a source of great concern and are unhelpful in building confidence;

Support for all the steps being taken by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over all three islands by peaceful means, in accordance with the principle of the collective security of the GCC countries; and exhortation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

The Supreme Council reviewed the bloody events that have taken place in the occupied Palestinian territories owing to the savage aggression, repressive measures and policies of closure and encirclement directed by Israel against a fraternal Palestinian people seeking the restoration of all of its legitimate rights, including its right to return and to establish an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital. As it expresses its deprecation and condemnation of such aggression and the use of such measures, the Council urges that the Palestinian people be provided with protection against them, and it reaffirms its established and publicly declared position on the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace.

The Council affirms that a comprehensive peace can only be achieved with the restoration to the Palestinian people of all of its legitimate rights and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with its capital at Jerusalem, with Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the boundary line of 4 June 1967, with the completion of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory, including the Shab'a farmlands, to the internationally recognized boundary

in accordance with Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), and with the release of all the Lebanese prisoners and abductees being held in Israel's prisons.

The Council expresses the hope that the efforts currently under way will lead to a peaceful settlement that will restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It affirms its complete confidence in the Palestinian negotiators, and it appeals to the international community to make greater efforts to bring pressure to bear on Israel and to require it to abide by the principles endorsed by the Madrid Peace Conference so that all legitimate Arab rights may be restored.

The Supreme Council again called upon the international community to take action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council affirmed once more that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and submit all its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.

The Council expressed support for the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit at its ninth session, held in Doha on 12 and 13 November 2000. It expressed its complete confidence that Qatar, under the leadership of its Amir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, would, when presiding over the Organization of the Islamic Conference, fulfil its responsibilities with wisdom and skill and would improve the performance and effectiveness of the Organization in such a way as to advance the interests of the Islamic Nation and enhance its impact and presence in the international arena.

The Council expressed its deep appreciation of and gratitude for the genuine and sincere efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, and his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, during the term of its presidency of the twentieth session of the Supreme Council. It commended the achievements that had advanced prospects for further progress and greater affluence for the peoples of the region.

The Supreme Council also conveyed its deep appreciation and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, and to his Government and people for the generous hospitality and genuine fraternal sentiments with which the leaders of the GCC countries had been received. The leaders of the GCC countries commended the attention and interest accorded to the gathering by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the current session of the Supreme Council. They commended his judicious conduct of the proceedings, which had had a major impact on the important results achieved and the decisions taken, and they expressed the belief that Bahrain, under the leadership if His Highness, would, as it presides over the work of the session, contribute to strengthening this auspicious process and guide it towards new horizons in such a way as to realize the aspirations and ambitions of the peoples of the GCC countries.

The Supreme Council looks forward to meeting at its twenty-second session, scheduled to be held in Oman in December 2001 at the kind invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

Annex II to the letter dated 2 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Manama Declaration 2000 on the strengthening of the GCC process, adopted on 31 December 2000

Conscious of the importance of the intimate and fraternal relations, close historical ties and common destiny that bind its countries and peoples,

Proceeding from the principles enshrined in its Statute that seek to strengthen coordination and cooperation between its member States in all fields as a means to the achievement of integration and unity,

Confident of the contributions that Bahrain, under the leadership of its Amir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, can make to consolidating and strengthening the GCC process during its presidency of the Council's forthcoming session in order to guide it towards new horizons that will enable it to cope in a positive manner with the rapid and continuous changes required by the process of globalization at the political, economic, social and cultural levels,

And pursuant to the provisions of the Riyadh Declaration, adopted by the Council at its twentieth session;

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), meeting at its twenty-first session, held in Bahrain on 30 and 31 December 2000, reviewed the progress made in the work of the GCC in all sectors in the context of the goals set forth in its Statute and in the Unified Economic Agreement and considered all issues of concern to the GCC countries and their peoples in the light of developments in the Middle East region and in the international arena.

Expressing its approval of the implementing measures taken by member States in accordance with its decisions and commending the efforts of the Ministerial Council and the GCC ministerial committees to establish a solid economic, cultural and social foundation that will meet the requirements of the future and reinforce the joint action process, the Supreme Council declares the importance of the following:

1. Reinforcement and strengthening of the GCC process in terms of enhanced coordination, cooperation, interlinkage and integration, by adopting a unified strategy in the political, economic, security, military, social, information, cultural and scientific fields based on unity of purpose and a common destiny.

2. Inculcation of the principle of the collective security of the GCC countries by strengthening cooperation and coordination with respect to security and defence issues in order to protect national and regional security and maintain the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of member States in the framework of compliance with the principles of the Joint Defence Treaty between the GCC States.

3. Accelerated measures to establish a unified Gulf economy, which cannot remain isolated from the influences of the global economy and must be able to interact with the major economic groupings, by revising the rules and regulations

that have recommendatory effect so as to transform them after evaluation into common regulations and enactments on a general basis and within a specific time frame.

4. Assignment of priority in the next stage of the economic cooperation process to the so-called new economy based on knowledge and technology, and particularly to the information and communications technology and e-commerce sectors, given that these sectors are expected to become major sources of economic growth and to require the pursuit of policies and measures to provide the GCC countries with a relative advantage in attracting and absorbing such economic and commercial activities.

5. The enhanced stability of the exchange rates for the currencies of the GCC countries by the adoption of a common "peg" for those currencies and the coordination of financial, economic and monetary policies as a preliminary step towards a single currency and the establishment of a monetary union.

6. Consideration of expediting the programme for the establishment of the GCC Customs Union and for the standardization of customs tariffs between member States on which agreement was reached at the twentieth summit, held in Riyadh, and of accelerating the establishment of the Gulf Common Market.

7. Coordination among member States in studying the commitments and undertakings given by member States to the World Trade Organization under its various agreements, and elaboration of an appropriate mechanism and timetable for the application of these commitments between member States.

8. Exploration of the possibility of creating effective mechanisms for the settlement of disputes between member States concerning the application of the Unified Economic Agreement and the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Supreme Council in economic matters, while assigning a larger role to the GCC Centre for Commercial Arbitration.

9. A review of the question of consensus as the basis for the adoption of economic decisions in light of the fact that the GCC countries have made considerable advances in the cooperation process.

United Nations A/55/728

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 116 and 123

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present document contains both the quarterly and the annual report of the Secretary-General on the use of gratis personnel. The quarterly report covers the situation of gratis personnel during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000, while the annual report concerns the situation during the period from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000.

01-20199 (E) 190101

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, in paragraph 6 of which the Secretary-General was requested to report on a quarterly basis on the acceptance of the gratis personnel referred to in paragraph 4 of that resolution, with a view to ensuring compliance with its provisions. In paragraph 12 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the use of gratis personnel, indicating, inter alia, their nationality, the duration of their service and the functions performed.

2. The present report updates previous quarterly reports (A/52/709 and Corr.1, A/C.5/52/43, A/C.5/52/51, A/C.5/52/56, A/53/715, A/C.5/53/54, A/C.5/53/59, A/53/1028, A/54/533, A/C.5/54/51, A/C.5/54/54 and A/C.5/55/13) and covers the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000. The report also contains the annual report for the period 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000, which updates the previous annual report (A/54/533).

II. Quarterly report on the acceptance of type II gratis personnel for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000

3. As reported by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, out of a total of 74 new type II gratis personnel brought in between 1 July and 30 September 2000, 5 personnel were engaged in July 2000, 26 in August and 43 in September 2000. These personnel were involved in the forensic examination at the remaining non-investigated sites in Kosovo, to be completed in 2000. This was in conformity with the Secretary-General's approval, in January 2000, of the Tribunal's request to accept expert gratis personnel for a limited period of six months (see A/54/734). During the same period, 38 type II gratis personnel ended their assignment with the International Tribunal. The previously reported figure (A/C.5/55/13) of 9 type II gratis personnel as of 30 June 2000 was due to premature reporting by the Tribunal of 5 personnel who were actually engaged in July and August 2000. The corrected data is now reflected in the database. The total number of type II gratis personnel engaged by the International Tribunal as at 30 September 2000 stands at 40.

4. The assignment of two type II gratis personnel to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), reported in the previous quarterly report (A/C.5/55/13), was extended between 1 July and 30 September 2000, as shown in table 1 below.

5. Review of the conditions of employment of 1 gratis personnel in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), previously reported as type I, proved to be type II. This engagement by ESCWA is, therefore, retroactively reported as at 30 September 1999.

III. Annual report on the use of gratis personnel for the period from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000

Type I gratis personnel

6. Table 2 below provides data on type I gratis personnel who serve under an established regime. These are interns, associate experts, technical cooperation experts obtained on non-reimbursable loans, and gratis personnel serving with the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which was established as a subsidiary body of the Security Council to replace the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) as of 17 December 1999 (see A/51/688/Add.2, para. 4, and A/51/688/Add.3, para. 3). The total number for each category as at 30 September 2000 is compared with the numbers contained in previous reports.

7. The overall number of type I gratis personnel decreased by 34.5 per cent from 629 personnel as at 30 September 1999 to 412 personnel by 30 September 2000. In conformity with their new personnel statute, all type I gratis personnel serving at UNMOVIC (25 as at 1 January 2000) were phased out by 30 September 2000. The Secretariat-wide number of associate experts (type Ib), decreased by 14 per cent, from 290 as at 30 September 1999 to 250 by 30 September 2000, while the number of interns (type Ia) has fallen by 49 per cent from 296 to 151. The number of technical cooperation experts (type Ic) over the referenced period decreased by 39 per cent from 18 to 11.

8. Prior to 1999, associate experts and technical cooperation experts were not recorded in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and were reported separately. Therefore, the increase in their number as compared to previous reports is attributable to incomplete and late reporting by some departments. In addition, databases for interns and UNMOVIC personnel previously maintained on a stand-alone basis were only recently readjusted and synchronized with IMIS. Until recently, interns, who are recruited at specific periods in the year, have not always been consistently reported to the Office of Human Resources Management by departments, but rather on an ad hoc basis. The Office is taking steps to improve monitoring and reduce the time-lag in all non-IMIS based data reporting by departments/offices.

Type II gratis personnel

9. Table 1 below provides information on the number of engagements and separations of type II gratis personnel in service as at 30 September 2000.

10. Table 3 below provides information on type II gratis personnel in service as at 30 September 2000, by department or office, nationality and duration of service. Six nationalities are represented. All engagements at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia are for less than one year. The engagement of 1 gratis personnel in ESCWA exceeds one year, while the 2 gratis personnel in UNCTAD have been extended for another year.

11. Table 4 below shows the evolution of type II gratis personnel during the period from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000, by department or office. The total of 43 as at 30 September 2000 shows a decrease by 57 per cent compared with the total of 101 as at 30 September 1999 and a decrease by 68 per cent as compared with the total of 134 as of 30 September 1998. The number of departments or offices having engaged type II gratis personnel decreased from 4 on 30 September 1999 to 3 on 30 September 2000.

12. The bulk of type II gratis personnel engaged between 1 October 1999 and 30 September 2000 have been engaged with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. In the months of October, November and December 1999, all remaining 92 forensic investigators were phased out (33 in October 1999, 9 in November and 50 in December 1999). From January to March 2000 there were no gratis personnel engaged by the International Tribunal. In response to the Tribunal's request, the Secretary-General indicated in his letter of 27 January 2000 to the President of the General Assembly (A/54/734) that the proper investigation and effective implementation of the mandate of the Tribunal dictate that all forensic investigations in the remaining non-investigated sites in Kosovo be completed by the end of 2000. As a result, 2 gratis personnel were engaged in April 2000, 3 in May, 1 in July, 17 in August and 18 in September 2000. In June 2000, 1 gratis personnel was separated from the Tribunal.

13. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations/ Field Administration and Logistics Division engaged 10 type II gratis personnel in October 1999 and 5 in November. Two gratis personnel were separated in December 1999, 4 in February 2000, 11 in April, 3 in May and 1 in June 2000. In this reporting period, there have been no gratis personnel engaged with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division since that time.

14. UNCTAD engaged 2 gratis personnel from 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000. Both have been extended for another year. ESCWA retained 1 type II gratis personnel over the whole length of the referenced period, who was initially erroneously reported as type I.

15. Table 5 below shows the distribution of type II gratis personnel as at 30 September 2000, by nationality and duration of service. Compared to the previous year, the number of nationalities decreased from 10 in 1999 to 6 in 2000. The duration of service is below one year for all but three type II gratis personnel.

16. Table 6 below provides further information as at 30 September 2000 on the nature of the functions performed by type II gratis personnel, by department or office.

17. Table 7 below shows the numbers of regular staff in the departments or offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions as at 30 September 2000, and the ratio of gratis personnel to staff.

Abbreviations used in the tables

ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPKO/FALD	Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission

Table 1

Quarterly report on the number of engagements and separations of type II gratis personnel

(1 July-30 September 2000)

Department or Office	*Number engaged in June*	*Number separated in June*	*Number as at 30 June 2000*	*Number engaged in July*	*Number separated in July*	*Number as at 31 July 2000*	*Number engaged in August*	*Number separated in August*	*Number as at 31 August 2000*	*Number engaged in September*	*Number separated in September*	*Number as at 30 September 2000*
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	9	10	4	5	4	5	26	9	22	43	25	40
DPKO/FALD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESCWA	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
UNCTAD	0	0	2	0	0	2	2[a]	0	2	0	0	2

[a] Extension of engagement.

Table 2

Evolution of type I gratis personnel

As at	*Interns*	*Associate experts*[a]	*Technical cooperation experts*[b]	*UNSCOM UNMOVIC*[c]	*Total*
31 October 1996	131	76	31	112	350
30 September 1997	195	72	32	109	408
30 September 1998	214	115	31	18	378
30 September 1999	296[d]	290[d]	18	25	629[d]
31 December 1999	43[d]	268[d]	16	25	352[d]
31 March 2000	101[d]	270[d]	13	19[d]	403[d]
30 June 2000	206[d]	271[d]	12[d]	15	504[d]
30 September 2000	151	250	11	0	412

[a] 200 series.
[b] See ST/AI/231/Rev.1.
[c] See S/22508.
[d] Adjusted (see para. 8).

Table 3
Type II gratis personnel, by department or office, nationality and duration of service
(As at 30 September 2000)

Department or office	*Country of nationality*	*Count*	*Duration of service*
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	Austria	1	Under one year
	Belgium	25	Under one year
	Canada	8	Under one year
	France	4	Under one year
	Germany	2	Under one year
	Subtotal	**40**	
ESCWA	Germany	1	More than one year
	Subtotal	**1**	
UNCTAD	Republic of Korea	2	One year
	Subtotal	**2**	
	Total	**43**	

Table 4
Evolution of the number of type II gratis personnel, by department or office
(1 October 1999-30 September 2000)

Department or office	*Reported on 30 September 1999*	*Reported on 30 September 2000*	*Change (%)*
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	92	40	-52 (-58%)
DPKO/FALD	6	0	-6 (-100%)
ESCWA	1	1	0
UNCTAD	2	2	0
Total	**101**	**43**	**-58 (-57%)**

Table 5

Type II gratis personnel, by nationality and duration of service

(As at 30 September 2000)

Country of nationality	*Count*	*Duration of service*
Austria	1	Under one year
Belgium	25	Under one year
Canada	8	Under one year
France	4	Under one year
Germany	2	Under one year
	1	More than one year
Republic of Korea	2	One year
Total	**43**	

Table 6

Functions performed by type II gratis personnel in service, by department or office

(as at 30 September 2000)

A. International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (40)

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Austria	Inspector	1
	Total	**1**
Belgium	Commander	1
	Forensic Anthropologist Officer	1
	Forensic Investigation Officer	5
	Investigator	12
	Logistics Officer	2
	Medical Officer	3
	Nurse	1
	Total	**25**
Canada	Forensic Investigation Officer	7
	Investigator	1
	Total	**8**
France	Laboratory Technician	1
	Forensic Investigation Officer	3
	Total	**4**

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Germany	Laboratory Technician	1
	Forensic Investigation Officer	1
	Total	**2**

B. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (1)

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Germany	Technical Adviser (Water resources)	1
	Total	**1**

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2)

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Republic of Korea	Economist[a]	2
	Total	**2**

[a] A detailed description of their duties was included under table 3 of A/C.5/55/13.

Table 7
Numbers of regular staff in the departments or offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions
(as at 30 September 2000)

Department or office	*Staff in the Professional and higher categories*	*Staff in the General Service and related categories*	*Total staff*	*Number of gratis personnel*	*Ratio of gratis personnel to staff (percentage)*
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	452	698	1 150	40	3.5
ESCWA	95	162	257	1	0.4
UNCTAD	304	184	488	2	0.4

United Nations A/55/729

General Assembly

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3 January 2001

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 51
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release issued today by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of another anniversary of the illegitimate British occupation of the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 51.

(*Signed*) Arnoldo M. **Listre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-20185 (E) 040101

Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Press release

On 3 January 1833, British forces seized the Malvinas Islands, expelling its inhabitants and the Argentine authorities established there. On this occasion the Argentine people and Government reaffirm the imprescriptible sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The Government reiterates the unwaivable determination of the Argentine people, enshrined in the National Constitution, to recover the full exercise of sovereignty over the above-mentioned territories and maritime areas through the peaceful means for the settlement of disputes in accordance with international law and respecting the way of life and the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands.

Today, on the 168th anniversary of that illegitimate occupation, the Argentine Government reaffirms its conviction that the resumption of negotiations on the sovereignty question, in accordance with the multiple and permanent appeals of the international community, will contribute to the creation of a proper framework for achieving a fair and lasting solution to the dispute.

The Argentine Government expresses once again its firm intention to continue making progress in the dialogue with the United Kingdom with a view to consolidating a relation of mutual confidence and to broadening bilateral cooperation.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2001

United Nations A/55/730-S/2001/24

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 164
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 3 January 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to you (A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7). In that letter, the Permanent Observer of Palestine asserts "that the Palestinian side remains opposed to any terrorist actions" and "does not condone any of the actions" referred to in my letter dated 2 January 2001 addressed to you (A/55/725-S/2001/2). Indeed, this statement appears to conform with the spirit of Chairman Arafat's 1993 commitment to renounce the use of terrorism and other acts of violence. At the same time, however, the Permanent Observer of Palestine states that actions perpetrated against Jewish residents of the territories under negotiations are "the complete responsibility" of Israel. This ambiguous, indeed conflicting, language, as well as the distinction between some victims of terrorism and others, amounts, in effect, to condoning acts of terrorism.

I would like to recall that the terrorist attack near the town of Ofra, referred to in my letter, resulted not only in the murder of a Jewish couple, but also in serious injuries inflicted upon five of their six children who were in the car at the time that it was ambushed.

Regrettably, this is not the first time that the Permanent Observer of Palestine has expressed what amounts to an effort to legitimize terrorism. Following the horrible lynching of two Israeli soldiers by a Palestinian mob in the town of Ramallah on 12 October 2000, he made the following remarks to Reuters: "The amount of anger ... frustration ... pain is beyond belief. The Palestinian people, we believe, have the right to feel that way and it is absolutely understood for them to react in a way that probably is not acceptable under normal circumstances" (Reuters, 12 October 2000).

In his historic letter of 9 September 1993 addressed to the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chairman Arafat stated, inter alia, that "the Palestine Liberation Organization renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all Palestine Liberation Organization elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline

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violators". This commitment constitutes a basic principle of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. It must be emphasized that Chairman Arafat's commitment was made without distinction with regard to territory. That is to say, he renounced terrorism unequivocally, not only in certain areas as the Permanent Observer of Palestine now implies. Moreover, terrorist attacks have been perpetrated not only in territories under Oslo negotiations, but in recent weeks inside Israeli cities as well, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Hadera and Netanya.

Therefore, any statements of a nature that violate this commitment, such as the one made by the Permanent Observer of Palestine, undermine the very foundation of the peace process.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/55/731

General Assembly

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English
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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 39 and 114

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Human rights questions

Letter dated 22 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Bamako Declaration issued by the Symposium on the Practices of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms in the French-speaking Community, held at Bamako from 1 to 3 November 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 39 and 114.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bamako Declaration

We, the Ministers and heads of delegation of the States and Governments of the countries that use French as a common language, meeting at Bamako for the International Symposium on the status of practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking community,

Guided by the provisions of the Charter of la Francophonie, which establish as priority goals assistance in the establishment and development of democracy, conflict prevention and human rights,

Recalling the commitment of la Francophonie to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to regional charters, as well as the commitments made at the Summits of Dakar (1989), Chaillot (1991), Mauritius (1993), Cotonou (1995), Hanoi (1997) and Moncton (1999),

Situating our action within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004),

Considering the active presence maintained by la Francophonie as democratic processes have gone forward during the past 10 years,

Concerned that progress towards democracy should proceed through economic and social development and fair distribution of national resources aimed at achieving equal access to education, training, health and employment,

Wishing to meet the goal set at the Moncton Summit of holding an International Symposium to evaluate the status of the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking community with a view to strengthening dialogue and cooperation so as to promote the rule of law and democratic culture, and of starting a new stage in the dialogue among French-speaking States and Governments with a view to highlighting the main trends, both in their recent experience and in their specific features,

1. Note

- That the status of the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking community over the past 10 years reflects undeniable progress: the constitutional recognition of the importance of human rights, the establishment of the institutional framework for democracy and human rights, the existence of checks and balances, progress in establishing multiparty systems in many French-speaking countries and in holding free, credible and transparent elections, the contribution of the opposition to the working of democracy, the promotion of local democracy through decentralization;

- That the current status also reflects some shortcomings and failures: recurring conflicts, interruptions in democratic processes, genocide and massacres, serious violations of human rights, the persistence of behaviours hindering the development of a democratic culture, the lack of independence in certain

institutions, and economic, financial and social constraints, which cause citizens to lose faith in democracy;

2. Reaffirm our adherence to the following basic principles:

   1. Democracy is a system of universal values and is based on recognition of the inalienable nature of the dignity and equal value of all human beings; everyone has the right to play an active role in social, professional and political life and to enjoy the right to development;

   2. The rule of law implies that all institutions are subject to the law and also implies the separation of powers, the free exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the equality before law of citizens, male and female; all of these aspects form the constitutive elements of a democratic system of government;

   3. Democracy requires, in particular, the holding, at regular intervals, of free, credible and transparent elections based on the respect and exercise, without any hindrance or discrimination, of the right to freedom and personal security of all voters and candidates, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in particular in the press or other means of communication, the freedom to assemble and demonstrate, and the freedom of association;

   4. Democracy is incompatible with any substantive change in the electoral system that is introduced in an arbitrary or secret way, and there must be a reasonable interval between the adoption of a change and its entry into force;

   5. Democracy presupposes the existence of political parties that have equal rights and are free to organize and express themselves, provided their programmes and actions do not call into question the fundamental values of democracy and human rights. Thus, democracy is linked with a multiparty system. The opposition must be guaranteed a clearly defined status free of any ostracism;[1]

   6. Democracy requires the practice of dialogue at all levels, between citizens, between social partners, between political parties, and between the State and civil society. Democracy implies participation by citizens in political life and allows them to exercise their right of control;

3. Declare

   1. That la Francophonie and democracy cannot be dissociated: there can be no strengthening of the aims of la Francophonie without constant progress towards democracy and its embodiment in reality; la Francophonie is, therefore, committed to democracy as a priority that must be translated into specific proposals and achievements;

[1] Reservations by Viet Nam and Laos with regard to article 2, paragraph 5 — Grounds: democracy and multiparty systems are separate ideas and should not be treated as the same. Democracy is a goal, whereas a multiparty system is only a way to achieve a goal. The way chosen by each country to achieve the goal must be determined by its people in terms of its specific cultural, historical, economic and social features.

2. That for la Francophonie there is no single organizational scheme for democracy and that the forms in which democracy expresses itself, while respecting universal principles, must form part of the historical, cultural and social realities and specific features of each people;

3. That democracy, as the political framework for the rule of law and the protection of human rights, is the system of government that best promotes long-term stability and legal security; thanks to the climate of freedom that it creates, democracy also establishes the conditions for freely accepted mobilization on the part of the people to achieve development; democracy and development cannot be dissociated: these are the factors promoting lasting peace;

4. That citizens, including the poorest and the most disadvantaged, will judge democracy by the care with which all of their rights, civil and political, are respected, by the degree to which they are able to enjoy those rights and by the extent to which those rights are protected by guarantees and machinery. These are the essential conditions under which they will join institutions and be motivated to become full-fledged actors in political and social life;

5. That, in the interest of preserving democracy, la Francophonie condemns all coups d'état and any seizure of power through violence, arms or other illegal means;

6. That, in the interest of strengthening democracy, the action undertaken by la Francophonie must be based on international cooperation that draws on the positive practice and experience of each member State or Government;

7. That democratic principles, in all their political, economic, social, cultural and legal dimensions, must also underlie international relations;

4. Undertake the following commitments:

A. In order to consolidate the rule of law,

1. To strengthen the capacities of the institutions, traditional or new, that make up the rule of law and to strive to enable them to enjoy the full independence they need in order to carry out their mission impartially;

2. To encourage the renewal of parliaments as institutions, by materially assisting the work of elected officials, ensuring that their immunities are respected, and promoting their training;

3. To ensure the independence of the judiciary and of counsel and the promotion of effective and accessible justice, which ensures a rule of law, in accordance with the Cairo Declaration and Ten-year Plan of Action adopted by the Third Conference of French-speaking Ministers of Justice;

4. To establish the principle of transparency as the rule in the work of institutions;

5. To broaden the practice and scope of the monitoring by impartial authorities of the actions of all bodies and institutions, as well as public and private establishments that operate with public funds;

6. To support the activities of institutions established in the framework of regional integration and cooperation, with a view to promoting the emergence at this level of a civic conscience oriented towards development, progress and solidarity;

B. In order to encourage the holding of free, credible and transparent elections,

7. To strive to strengthen the national capacities of all the actors and structures involved in the electoral process, with a focus on setting up a registry office and reliable lists of voters;

8. To ensure that the organization of elections, from the preparatory activities and the electoral campaign to the counting of the votes and the announcement of the results, including, where required, contests of the election results, takes place in complete transparency and that this process is handled by credible organs whose independence is recognized by all;

9. To guarantee the full participation of citizens in the vote, as well as equal treatment of candidates during the entire election process;

10. To involve all legally established political parties, those in the majority as well as those in the opposition, in all stages of the electoral process, respecting the democratic principles enshrined in the basic texts and the institutions, and to allow them to receive funds from the State budget;

11. To take the necessary steps to move towards national financing of elections with public funds;

12. To accept the results of free, credible and transparent elections;

C. In order to achieve a calm political life,

13. To ensure that the basic texts governing democratic life are based on a broad national consensus, while still in conformity with international standards, and that they be regularly evaluated and adapted;

14. To encourage the participation of all political parties, those in the opposition as well as those in the majority, in the national, regional and local political life, in accordance with the law, so as to settle any conflicts of interest peacefully;

15. To promote the participation of citizens in political life as local democracy is progressively established, which is an essential condition for strengthening democracy;

16. To prevent disputes and tensions between political and social groups, and where necessary settle them peacefully, seeking out all appropriate mechanisms and arrangements, such as determining the

status of former high officials without prejudice to their criminal responsibility under national and international laws;

17. To recognize the place and facilitate the continued involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the media and traditional moral authorities, enabling them, in the public interest, to participate actively in a balanced political life;

18. To ensure true respect for freedom of the press and equal access of the various political forces to the public and private media, whether written or audio-visual, under a regulatory system that is in line with democratic principles;

D. In order to promote an internalized democratic culture and full respect for human rights,

19. To develop a spirit of tolerance and promote democratic culture in all its dimensions, so as to foster awareness among public officials, all participants in political life and all citizens, through education and training, of the ethical requirements of democracy and human rights;

20. To promote, to that end, the emergence of new partnerships between public and private initiatives, mobilizing all those engaged in promoting democracy and human rights;

21. To ratify the principal international and regional human rights instruments, fulfil and perfect the commitments undertaken thereby, ensure their full implementation and train all those in charge of their proper enforcement;

22. To adopt, in particular to combat impunity, all measures aimed at the pursuit and punishment of those who commit grave violations of human rights, as provided for in a number of international and regional legal instruments, including the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, and to call for the speedy ratification of the Statute by as many States as possible;

23. To create, promote and strengthen national consultative and non-consultative human rights bodies, support the establishment of human rights structures in national administrations and support actions in defence of human rights;

24. To take appropriate steps to grant members of minority groups, whether they be ethnic, philosophical, religious or linguistic groups, freedom to practise or not to practise a religion, the right to speak their own language and the right to have their own cultural life;

25. To ensure respect for the dignity of immigrants and the enforcement of the relevant provisions contained in international instruments concerning immigrants.

* * *

To these ends, and in the quest for a renewed partnership, have agreed as follows:

- To intensify cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and regional and international organizations, to develop concerted action to democratize international relations and to support, in this context, initiatives to promote democracy;

- To strengthen the mechanism for concerted action and permanent dialogue with international non-governmental organizations recognized by la Francophonie, particularly with those that pursue the same objectives in the fields of democracy and human rights;

5. Decide to recommend the implementation of the following procedures to monitor the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms within the French-speaking community:

1. The Secretary-General shall be kept informed at all times of the situation of democracy, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking community, supported by, inter alia, the Delegation to Democracy and Human Rights, which is responsible for monitoring respect for democracy and human rights in countries members of la Francophonie;

A continued evaluation of democratic practices, rights and freedoms in the French-speaking community shall be carried out as a preventive measure in the framework of the International Organization of la Francophonie, on the basis of the founding principles set forth above. This evaluation shall make it possible to:

- Define the most appropriate steps to support the implanting of democracy, rights and freedoms;

- Provide States and Governments, at their request, with the necessary assistance in these fields;

- Help to set up an early warning system.

2. Confronted by a crisis in democracy or with grave human rights violations, the bodies of the French-speaking community shall consider the issue, under the provisions of the Charter, in order to take steps to prevent the worsening of the situation and contribute to a settlement. To that end, the Secretary-General proposes the following specific measures:

- He may send a facilitator to help find consensus solutions. The success of any action depends upon the prior acceptance of the facilitation process by the authorities of the country concerned. The facilitator shall be chosen by the Secretary-General after consultation with the President of the Ministerial Conference, by agreement among all the participants. Facilitation shall be carried out in close cooperation with the Standing Council;

- He may decide, in the case of an action arousing the concern of the French-speaking community, to send, in agreement with the Standing Council, legal observers to a country with the consent of that country.

3. In the case of a breakdown of democracy or massive human rights violations, the following actions shall be taken:

The Secretary-General shall immediately consult with the President of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie;

The issue shall be immediately and automatically included on the agenda of the Standing Council, which may be convened urgently in special session and, where necessary, may:

- Confirm the breakdown of democracy or the existence of massive human rights violations;
- Publicly condemn them;
- Call for the re-establishment of the constitutional order or an immediate halt to such violations.

The Standing Council shall notify the parties concerned of its decision.

The Secretary-General shall contact the relevant authorities. He may send a mission to gather information and make contact. A report shall be written as soon as possible by this mission and shall be submitted to the national authorities for comment. The mission's report and the comments of the national authorities shall be submitted to the Standing Council for any action that it deems necessary.

The Standing Council may take any of the following steps:

- It may refuse to support nominations submitted by the country concerned to elective posts in international organizations;
- It may refuse to allow events or conferences of la Francophonie to be held in the country concerned;
- It may make recommendations concerning the granting of visas to the current authorities of the country in question and the reduction of intergovernmental contacts;
- It may suspend the participation of representatives of the country concerned at meetings of its bodies;
- It may suspend multilateral cooperation among French-speaking countries, with the exception of programmes that directly benefit the civilian populations and those that are conducive to the re-establishment of democracy;
- It may recommend that the country concerned should be suspended from la Francophonie. In the case of a military coup d'etat against a democratically elected government, such suspension shall be automatic.

Where measures have been taken to restore the constitutional order or put an end to massive human rights violations, the Standing Council shall determine the procedure for the return to the normal institutional operations, together with guarantees of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall decide on measures to accompany this process to be taken by la Francophonie in partnership with other international and regional organizations.

Where necessary, the Standing Council shall refer the matter to the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie through its President.

The question of the breakdown of democracy of massive human rights violations in a country and measures taken shall remain on the agenda of the Standing Council as long as such breakdown or violations persist.[2]

* * *

We, the Ministers and heads of delegation of the States and Governments of the countries that use French as a common language,

Hereby adopt this Declaration;

Request the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie to ensure its implementation;

Transmit to the heads of State and Government, with a view to its consideration at their ninth summit meeting, to be held in Beirut, the draft programme of action annexed hereto.

Bamako, 3 November 2000

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[2] Reservation of Viet Nam and Laos to article 5, paragraph 3.

United Nations A/55/732

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2001
English
Original: English/Russian

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 67, 92 and 94

Maintenance of international security

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to circulate the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted by the participants at the international conference "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan: national foundations and international significance", as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 67, 92 and 94.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-20731 (E) 170101 190101

Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Ashgabat Declaration

We participants in the international conference "Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan: national foundations and international significance" and representatives of States Members of the United Nations,

Congratulating the people of Turkmenistan on the State holiday "Neutrality Day" and welcoming the fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the resolution on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan,

Adopt this Declaration and declare the following:

1. For five years, Turkmenistan has been an officially recognized permanently neutral State in the international arena. It has confirmed its unwavering commitment to the international obligations it undertook in this capacity: the status of neutrality has been decisive for Turkmenistan in determining its approaches and positions on all issues of bilateral relations and regional and international policy. Neutral Turkmenistan has not joined any military or military-political bloc, association or alliance or any kind of international structure with functions that are rigidly regulatory or entail collective responsibility and has adhered strictly and unswervingly to the principles of peace, equality of rights, good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Turkmenistan has been actively involved in activities of the international community aimed at ensuring peace, harmony and constructive cooperation.

2. Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality has become an important factor in the maintenance of regional security and stability. Turkmenistan, making use of its potential as a neutral State, has pursued an active and constructive policy in the region aimed at creating conditions conducive to the peaceful, non-violent settlement of disputes and conflicts. Turkmenistan initiated the holding, under United Nations auspices, of a continuous round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat, which made a significant contribution to the establishment of peace and harmony in Tajikistan. Turkmenistan's neutrality and its steadfast and principled position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan laid the ground for the commencement of a process aimed at achieving a political dialogue between the warring Afghan sides. In March 1999, in Ashgabat, representatives of the Taliban movement and the Northern Alliance sat down at the negotiating table for the first time.

This active and constructive policy of Turkmenistan's, pursued in parallel with United Nations efforts, has earned it great authority among neighbouring States and in the region as a whole and has secured the rightful promotion of Ashgabat to the rank of recognized peacemaking centres in Asia.

3. In its economic policy, neutral Turkmenistan has proclaimed and is consistently putting into practice the "open doors" principle, aimed at mutually advantageous cooperation with all States, and is establishing equal conditions for

the effective functioning of foreign companies in its territory, irrespective of their national origin and form of ownership. This approach of Turkmenistan's is ensuring steady interest on the part of foreign partners in commercial and economic cooperation with Turkmenistan, facilitating the establishment of a sound climate for investment in the country and ensuring the gradual development of its economy.

Turkmenistan is actively participating in regional and interregional economic cooperation. Large-scale interregional projects are currently being implemented on the initiative of and with direct participation by Turkmenistan in the energy, transport and communication sectors with a view to giving impetus to the accelerated economic development of the countries of the region and narrowing the technology gap between developed and developing and industrial and agrarian States. In addition, Turkmenistan is a firm advocate of compliance with the principles of complete equality of rights in relations between States and exclusion from the practice of international relations of all forms of economic blackmail, diktat and pressure.

4. Given the global character that the problem of securing and distributing energy resources is assuming in the twenty-first century, as well as its own huge fuel potential, Turkmenistan has set about developing and implementing large-scale projects involving the laying of pipelines westward, southward and eastward. A multivariant pipeline infrastructure will ensure the increase and diversification of world energy reserves and allow for their stabilization and equitable international distribution. The construction of systems for the transport of oil and gas to the west, the Far East and across Europe and on the Iranian and Caspian routes will require unprecedented regional cooperation, serve to create a huge number of jobs and address many social issues, and give a strong impetus to the rational cessation of conflicts. In the twenty-first century, an exceptional need is arising for triangular cooperation: among producer countries, transit countries and consumer countries. Dangerous manoeuvring and unhealthy competition are giving way to a new global approach based on the principle of equal benefit, adequate for all. In this context, Turkmenistan's initiative for the drafting and adoption of an international convention to guarantee the security and unimpeded transit of crude energy resources via major inter-State pipelines — which are of enormous value to humankind and will carry the lifeblood for global economic development in the twenty-first century — merits broad international support.

5. The philosophy of neutrality has become an important factor for conflict-free internal development, for the creation in multi-ethnic Turkmenistan of conditions of harmony among faiths, races and ethnic groups, political stability and social partnership, and for the consistent humanization of all aspects of public life. In Turkmenistan, citizens are guaranteed equal rights irrespective of ethnic origin, skin colour, sex, age, religion or political views. Turkmenistan was the first State on the Asian continent to pass legislation abolishing the death penalty. All of this is furthering the spiritual education of the Turkmen people in lofty, life-affirming ideals and the implantation in society, as the foundation of the national philosophy, of humanist values — peace, justice, openness, tolerance, mutual respect — which are gradually penetrating the flesh and blood of the Turkmen people.

6. The humanist criteria characteristic of the ideology of neutrality have determined Turkmenistan's attitude and approaches to the main trends in world development and the new challenges confronting humankind today. Turkmenistan

has consistently and insistently supported the establishment in international relations of a more humane, equitable and constructive order, opposed all forms of discrimination, the isolation of States on political or ideological grounds and the imposition of various types of economic sanctions, embargoes and the like, and urged respect for the distinctive characteristics of each country and its chosen model of social and political development. As a member of the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a number of other authoritative international organizations, Turkmenistan is making an important contribution to the cause of achieving rapprochement among peoples and States and establishing a process of dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

True to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations, neutral Turkmenistan categorically opposes the dissolution of the Organization into new supranational structures and the appropriation and assumption of its functions by individual States or groups of countries or by other organizations. Turkmenistan supports United Nations reform, but only reform that strengthens and broadens the Organization's role in the world, reflects the interests of all components on an equal basis and renounces the principle of special privileges and powers as a political anachronism.

The fifth anniversary of Turkmenistan's neutrality is a significant date in the history of the Turkmen people. Five years of neutrality have provided them with the opportunity for peaceful and constructive labour in conditions of internal harmony and stability, the laying of a stable material and spiritual foundation for accelerated economic reform, the gradual introduction of democratic standards and institutions, and the elevation of the country in the near future to the ranks of the world's modern developed States.

Neutrality has created external conditions conducive to the country's successful development. Despite the complexity and varied nature of regional processes, Turkmenistan is maintaining relations of partnership and good-neighbourliness, characterized by equality of rights, mutual advantage and respect, confidence and tolerance, with all the States of the region. Turkmenistan has no irreconcilable differences with any country; its relations with the outside world are based on the compatibility of national interests and key trends in global development, and its own vision of its place and role in the system of world political and economic affairs.

Turkmenistan's neutrality is the outcome of the entire course of the historical development of the Turkmen nation and is founded on deep cultural roots, traditions and customs. The neutral model corresponds, in its moral and ethical manifestations, to the mentality of the Turkmen people, their perception of the world and their established system of values. Neutrality is in keeping with the long-term interests of Turkmenistan's economic development, the welfare of its people and its spiritual rebirth.

The five years during which Turkmenistan has been recognized by the United Nations as a permanently neutral State have demonstrated for all to see the strength and viability of Turkmen neutrality. Turkmenistan's neutrality has become an undeniably positive factor in regional and interregional economic development. The neutral status of the Turkmen State has proven to be an asset in peacemaking and mediatory efforts for the peaceful, non-violent settlement of disputes and conflicts

in the region. Turkmenistan's neutrality objectively meets the long-term interests of the international community as an important and effective factor in the maintenance of peace, stability and security in Asia.

Ashgabat, 11 December 2000

United Nations A/55/733-S/2001/43

General Assembly
Security Council

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English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 15 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and following my previous letters, I have the honour to inform you of a series of Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty which occurred on 14 January 2001:

Violations on 14 January 2001

Time	*Place*	*Remarks*
1120	South and Mount Lebanon/10 points targeted by aircraft	Medium altitude
1300	Tyre/military aircraft	Medium altitude
1320	Western Bekaa/military aircraft and release of military balloons	Medium altitude
1340-1400	Strafing of the central zone of Tallat al-Sammaqah within the Shab'a farmlands using machine-guns	
1400	Beirut-Mount Lebanon/military aircraft, breaking the sound barrier	
1445	North Beirut/military aircraft	Medium altitude
2200-2210	Military helicopters opposite Naqurah	

This new series of Israeli violations, which follows upon previous violations, constitutes a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of the sovereignty of Lebanon, and is a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/55/734

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 42 and 179

Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children

Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects

Letter dated 12 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of enclosing the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the rights of the child in a world with HIV and AIDS, organized by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union. The seminar was held at Harare from 23 to 25 October 2000.

The overall objectives of the seminar were to appreciate and assess the effects and impact of HIV and AIDS on the rights of the child in the SADC region, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of the girl child, to consider measures to support children affected by HIV and AIDS and to arrive at a common understanding on these issues.

The specific objectives were to discuss the effects and impact of HIV and AIDS on education systems and the full and equal access to education of children affected by HIV and AIDS, the right to and importance of education and information concerning sexual rights and health as a means of HIV and AIDS prevention and how to involve youth in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The participants were delegates from member States of SADC and the European Union, representatives of the European Commission and the SADC Executive Secretariat, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The meeting, co-chaired by Ulitala Hiveluah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Welfare of Namibia, and Ambassador Didier Ferrand of France, was held in a constructive atmosphere, and the presentations were supplemented by appreciated and valuable discussions among participants.

The fourth ministerial conference between the European Union and SADC, held on 29 and 30 November 2000 in Gaborone, welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar and asked the European Union and SADC presidencies to propose ways of furthering collaboration between the two regions in the continuing preparatory work leading up to the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the 1990 World Summit for Children.

For this reason I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and the attached conclusions and recommendations as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 42 and 179.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 12 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the rights of the child in a world with HIV and AIDS held by the Southern African Development Community and the European Union in Harare from 23 to 25 October 2000

Introduction

The seminar on the rights of the child in relation to HIV/AIDS and education, organized by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union, was held in Harare from 23 to 25 October 2000. The seminar was attended by senior experts from the SADC region and the European Union as well as from United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations. The honourable Deputy Minister for Health and Child Welfare of Zimbabwe, Dr. David Parirenyatwa, opened the meeting. In his opening remarks he addressed the situation of children in a world with HIV and AIDS.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Ulitala Hiveluah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Welfare of Namibia, and Didier Ferrand, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France.

The overall objectives of the seminar were to discuss:

- The effects and impact of HIV/AIDS on educational systems and the full and equal access to education of children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS;
- The right to and importance of education and information concerning sexual rights and health as a means of HIV prevention and how to involve youth in the fight against HIV and AIDS;
- Measures to support children affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS in relation to the above two objectives.

Context and need for political commitment

HIV and AIDS pose complex development issues, some that may be common to all societies and others that vary among societies. Children and young people should, however, always be placed at the centre of our concerns.

As the epidemic unfolds, it places new burdens on countries, peoples and their development partners. The consequences are felt today and will be increasingly present for years to come. Yet the ultimate human, societal and economic toll of this epidemic depends on actions taken or not taken over the next years. Political will and sound decisions are crucial to advancing efforts against HIV and AIDS. We must at all costs avoid making children and young people pay the price for lack of such political will and sound economic decision-making.

On the basis of new evidence, there is now consensus that the impact of HIV and AIDS on children and young people is much greater than was previously recognized. To date, the response in terms of providing prevention, care and support to children and young people falls far short of needs.

Transmission of HIV is preventable with tools available today. HIV and AIDS can no longer be seen as a health issue alone, but must be recognized as a critical development problem. It also undermines the rights of the child.

Children and young people are especially vulnerable to HIV transmission when they first become sexually active. They may lack appropriate sex education and/or life skills training, as well as social support. Infants whose mothers are living with HIV or AIDS are also at risk of contracting HIV from their mothers (during pregnancy, during birth or through breastfeeding).

Gender stereotyping is part of a child's socialization process. Expectations of what is feminine and masculine are deeply ingrained from early childhood into adolescence and beyond. As a result of existing gender norms in many countries, girls and young women are poorly informed about how to protect themselves against HIV. Young men, on the other hand, are expected to show "masculinity", which contributes to high-risk behaviour. Addressing gender equality must be an integral part of overall HIV prevention strategies, care and support.

The situation of children in a world with HIV and AIDS is getting worse. More children are orphaned as the number of deaths among adults increases. This forces them to undertake new roles within the household and seek new ways of surviving. As a result, many children are forced to leave school or their attendance is irregular. As more mothers transmit HIV to their infants, the number of children living with HIV or AIDS also increases.

Investment in education is crucial for long-term socio-economic development and for HIV prevention. A weakening of the educational system as a consequence of AIDS will make it more difficult for children and young people to receive information and education about HIV and AIDS before they become sexually active. Moreover, the quantity and quality of education decline as teachers at all levels die. Above all, this will have devastating consequences for the socio-economic development of entire nations, as generations of children will not have access to schooling unless appropriate action is taken urgently.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The meeting recalled the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The fulfilment of commitments to the Convention on the Rights of the Child was in particular emphasized, as was universal access to primary education.

2. The meeting also recalled the overall objective for the year 2005, which was agreed to at the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development: to reduce HIV infection among persons 15 to 24 years of age by 25 per cent in the hardest-hit countries.

3. The meeting noted the need to enhance the capacity, commitment and efforts of all partners, including Governments, donors and the private sector, to address in a coordinated way the challenges of HIV and AIDS and to build on local experience and locally identified needs and demands. The need for a political commitment to break the culture of silence and stigma was stressed.

4. The meeting recognized the need for a partnership in financing the challenges ahead and for increased international assistance to support national Governments in their own efforts. Keeping in mind that AIDS is a global issue, the meeting encouraged the further exploration of new and innovative ways of funding.

5. While recognizing the important role of the health sector, the meeting also underlined the importance of an approach to effectively addressing HIV and AIDS that involves all sectors. The meeting also recognized HIV and AIDS as a regional emergency.

6. The meeting emphasized the fundamental role played by education for the long-term socio-economic development of countries and the need to attach high priority to the right to free education for children and young people. The school is a particularly important institution in the lives of children and communities, and it needs to be supported in the response to HIV and AIDS.

7. The meeting recognized the importance of the ongoing cooperation between the SADC and European Union member countries and emphasized the need for a strengthened partnership between the Governments of the SADC and European Union countries to address the challenges of HIV and AIDS in relation to children and young people. Also, the meeting confirmed the need for partnerships among Governments, bilateral donors, co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

8. The meeting reiterated the need for participatory approaches. Children and young people want to take an active part in designing prevention and care and support activities. To help them to realize their rights, Governments are urged to make sure that children and young people are fully involved.

9. The meeting identified, among other things, the following strategic goals:

(a) To encourage greater political commitment to HIV prevention programmes, including those within national AIDS plans, that will ensure that:

- The rights of children and young people are fully reflected in national legal systems, including educational law and regulations;
- Policy and decision makers at all levels guarantee that children and young people receive accurate, relevant and sound information about sexual matters, including HIV and AIDS, preferably before sexual debut;
- Governments integrate activities within their national AIDS plans in order to provide children and young people with the right knowledge and skills to minimize the risk for HIV infection and to cope with the effects of HIV and AIDS in their lives;
- Governments further develop and find methods and resources to provide all children with free and high-quality education which, in the long term, will be advantageous for the individual child as well as for the community as a whole as envisioned by the international development target of achieving universal primary education by 2015;
- Cultural issues and traditional practices are considered, taking into account the positive and negative aspects;

- Programmes maximize community participation, including children and young people;

(b) To implement actions that protect children and young people against HIV infection, including:

- Promoting strengthened education and dissemination of frank information on sexual matters, including HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, through, i.e., schools, out-of-school programmes and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health and rights services;

- Promoting gender equality and empowerment of girls and young women so that they can safeguard themselves from unsafe sex with their partners, and providing opportunities for boys and young men to appreciate the positive aspects of an equal relationship with girls and young women;

(c) To enable children and young people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS to pursue their lives with quality and dignity through, among other things:

- Provision of social and educational support to all affected children and young people, especially girls;

- Provision of social and economic support to impoverished households and communities as a means of strengthening their capacity to develop coping mechanisms;

- Provision of support to the health sector in order to improve access to comprehensive services for all children and young people affected by the epidemic, including reducing transmission from mother to child;

- Provision of support to the education sector so as to strengthen the role of the school in the community, develop strategies to keep all vulnerable children at school and provide education for those who are out of school.

10. The meeting agreed to forward these conclusions and recommendations to the ministerial meeting of SADC and European Union countries in Gaborone in November 2000, and it also recommended that the chairmanship of SADC and the European Union Presidency find ways to further the collaboration between the two regions in the continued preparatory work leading up to the special session of the General Assembly for follow-up to the World Summit for Children. The meeting also agreed to forward the full report of the meeting to the ministerial meeting.